

Teaching below par in Islamic countries

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Teaching and educational standards are below par in Islamic countries, the head of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) said here Sunday. Abdul Aziz Tuwaijari, a Saudi, told representatives from 41 Muslim countries that "in more than two-thirds of Islamic countries, less than half of adults are literate." Mr. Tuwaijari was opening the organisation's fifth general congress being held in the Syrian capital. "The rate of investment for development in Arab and Islamic countries is below two per cent of the gross national product," Mr. Tuwaijari said. There was an "urgent need" to boost education in Islamic countries, he said. ISESCO is part of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), whose Secretary General Hamed Alhabib attended the opening session of the four-day congress here. Delegates at the forum are to draw up a plan of action for the next three years and discuss the organisation's budget of \$39 million over the same period.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Saudi dissident denied British asylum

LONDON (AP) — Britain has denied political asylum to a leading Saudi Arabian political dissident, a London newspaper said Sunday. Seven months after he travelled from Saudi Arabia to Britain, Mohammad Al Masari, a 48-year-old professor of physics who leads a movement for political reform in the Saudi Kingdom, was told last week that he was an illegal immigrant and must leave, the Independent on Sunday said. The decision came after the Saudi government pressured Britain to prevent London from becoming the centre of opposition to the ruling Saudi family, the newspaper said. The Home Office refused to comment. "Our policy is that we don't comment on any individual case," said spokesman Rachel Joint. "In general, with political asylum an applicant has to have well-founded fear of persecution, then that is looked into. If the individual disagrees with our findings, then he has a right to appeal." The Home Office said Al Masari should go to Yemen, but Al Masari believes he would be kidnapped or assassinated there and will appeal the order, the newspaper said.

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Qatar boycotts Gulf meeting

RIYADH (AFP) — Qatar on Sunday boycotted a meeting of Gulf interior ministers to protest alleged Saudi Arabian attacks on its shipping in a disputed border region, officials said. Doha had warned of a boycott after complaining about "five attacks in the last two years when the Saudi coast guard had opened fire, arrested and detained Qatari sailors at Khor Al Adaid," a Gulf official said. Khor Al Adaid is a waterway to the Gulf in a border region disputed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Qatar had vowed to stay away from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting aimed at developing common security if Riyadh failed to answer questions in a protest letter about the attacks, the official added on condition of anonymity. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz expressed "regret" over Qatar's absence from the GCC meeting but refused to comment on the reasons given by Doha for its decision.

Israel asks EU not to end arms embargo on Syria

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has asked the European Union (EU) to reconsider its expected decision to lift an embargo on arms sales to Syria, an Israeli official said on Sunday. "There is still a Syrian embargo on a peace agreement (with Israel) and on direct peace negotiations, so lifting the European weapons embargo... is a diplomatic mistake," Uri Savir, director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, said on Israel Radio.

'Iraqi Baath party official killed'

NICOSIA (AFP) — A ruling Baath Party official in southern Iraq was kidnapped and killed recently, an Iraqi opposition radio said Sunday. Lutfi Uweid, secretary of the party section in Basra, 550 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, was kidnapped in the city centre with his bodyguards on Nov. 15, the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) said. Uweid's corpse was found on Nov. 18 on the road linking Basra to Amara, 240 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, according to the statement monitored in Cyprus. The radio did not say what happened to Uweid's bodyguards. It said they were travelling in four cars when they were kidnapped.

Afghan rivals agree to Tehran talks

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Rival Afghan factions have agreed to attend talks in Tehran from Tuesday to try to end fighting in their war-torn country. Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and Afghan sources said on Sunday. Spokesmen for the coalitions backing President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his opponents told Reuters in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar their delegations would go to the OIC-sponsored talks.

GATT passage almost certain — Bentsen

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen predicted Sunday the U.S. Congress would approve the GATT trade agreement this week but admitted the administration was still working to secure lawmakers' support for the pact. "I think we're going to win it," Mr. Bentsen said in a television interview. He admitted that a number of senators had not yet committed themselves to vote for ratification of the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), but attributed their hesitation to procedural issues. Passage of GATT is "not wrapped up. I think we still have our work to do," the treasury secretary acknowledged.

Settler killed in W. Bank; Israelis weigh options for army redeployment

MOUNT HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A rabbi was killed and an Israeli policeman wounded near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Sunday in an attack which Israel blamed on Islamic militants.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters in southern Israel: "I have no doubt the radical Islamic element, Hamas or Islamic Jihad, carried it out."

Military sources said a car driven by Rabbi Ami Ulami, 33, head of a religious seminary in the settlement of Utniel, overturned after it was fired on.

It was not clear whether Ulami, found dead in the vehicle, had been killed by the gunfire or the crash. The policeman, a passenger in the car, suffered gunshot wounds.

Settlers said unidentified men fired AK-47 rifles at the car which was headed for the settlement in the southern West Bank around midday. Israel radio said the military arm of the Muslim Hamas group, main opponent of the Israeli-Palestinian Organisation (PLO) peace deal, claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to the radio.

Government ministers quoted army chief Ehud Barak as having told a weekly meeting of the cabinet that guerrilla attacks on Israelis were expected to increase.

Settler leaders charged that authorities had done nothing to bolster security in the area since two Israelis were killed in a guerrilla attack earlier this year about one kilometre from the site of Sunday's incident.

The policeman returned fire at the attackers, the settlers said. A doctor at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital said he was in good condition, grazed by two bullets.

Soldiers and secret police launched a massive manhunt for the attackers and detained a number of Arabs for questioning.

There were several bullet holes in the car, which lay upside down, its top crushed.

by the side of the road.

An anonymous spokesman claiming to belong to Izzedine Al Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, called Israel Radio and claimed the attack, which came hours after a mass rally in Gaza where the fundamentalist group pledged to keep up the fight against Israel.

Israel's internal security service Shin Beth suspected Hamas of carrying out the attack, military sources said.

Initial enquiries revealed that the assailants were hiding near the road and did not fire from a passing car, as initially believed.

The settlers council for the West Bank and Gaza on Sunday issued a statement "condemning plans to redeploy the Israeli army in areas heavily populated by the Palestinians in the West Bank."

Under the terms of the declaration of principles signed with the PLO in September 1993 Israel is due to redeploy ahead of elections to a Palestinian self-rule council.

Israel and the PLO are due to resume negotiations on setting a date for the elections and the army's redeployment in Brussels on Monday.

"We have reached one of the lowest points in the peace process with the Palestinians," an aide to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told AFP Sunday.

"We had the same feeling after Hebron," he said, referring to the February 25 massacre of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers by an Israeli settler in the West Bank town.

The aide said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's position was "no longer as strong as before, and the growth of Islamic tendencies risks harming the peace process."

An Israeli official said Mr. Peres would head the Israeli delegation but would leave Brussels Tuesday. The other Israeli negotiators would stay there possibly until Thursday.

The talks had been suspended for five weeks.

Israel, PLO may discuss final status in Belgium

ISRAEL's foreign minister said Sunday that Israel-PLO peace talks needed fresh solutions, with some indications that the two sides would skip right to negotiating the final status of all occupied territory.

"We have to try to imagine and create some new solutions," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview before leaving for a meeting Monday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Belgium.

An Israeli official who demanded anonymity said the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may propose skipping over the withdrawal and elections, part of the self-rule accord signed in September 1993, and going to the next phase of the process. That would include negotiating the final status of Jerusalem and the West Bank, talks not scheduled to start until 1996.

The official said the government believed withdrawing troops from West Bank towns as expected under the initial agreement posed too great a security threat to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Instead, Rabin aides were discussing the possibility of consolidating some of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and speeding up the handover of administrative powers to the PLO, the official said.

Mr. Peres refused to comment on the ideas, saying he wanted to present his proposals first to the Palestinian delegation. But the calibre of his team, including senior foreign ministry veterans of the talks in Oslo where the first answers to complex problems were hammered out, indicated that Brussels was going to be something of

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Anani clarifies remarks, affirms Jordan committed to Arab rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Jawad Anani said Sunday statements attributed to him by some local and Arab newspapers were inaccurate. The remarks, he said, which he made at a meeting with the press on Saturday, fall within the context of analysing the various scenarios of the situation in the Middle East in light of the peace process and its impact on Jordan and its relations with other Arab countries.

An Arabic daily newspaper on Saturday quoted Dr. Anani as saying that Jordan's early signing of a peace treaty with Israel preempted a greater regional role for Syria over Jordan, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said Sunday his dialogue with newspaper reporters was aimed at briefing them on the various alternatives irrespective of their source or credibility.

Dr. Anani said Jordan believes in a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problems, adding that it has always sought to bolster ties with all Arab countries.

Dr. Anani attributed the strain in relations with the Palestinian leadership to a "lack of confidence on the part of one of them."

Stressing Jordan's clear and principled policy, Dr. Anani told Petra that Jordan respects the will and sovereignty of all Arab coun-

tries and insists on the total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the exercise by the Arab parties concerned of their total sovereignty on these territories.

Dr. Anani said Jordan's policy was based on inter-Arab cooperation and coordination, mutual respect and non-interference in others' internal affairs.

He said Jordan was keen on avoiding any direct or indirect criticism or slander of any Arab country.

Dr. Anani said the Jordanian press enjoys freedom of expression within the rules in force, noting that some of newspaper analysis or commentaries have sometimes been the subject of protest or criticism. However, he added, the official media is fully committed to respecting positions of the various Arab countries and to supporting their rights.

Dr. Anani was reported to have said that he could not assess the degree of security forces' response against opposition to the peace treaty, whether that response was exaggerated or the basis on which it was carried out. One leading columnist, Sultan Hattab, writing in Al Ra'i daily, expressed astonishment at Dr. Anani's statement. Mr. Hattab said that although he was close to the government he was "too far from what Anani had to say."

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman meanwhile denied his coun-

try was holding secret peace talks with Israel.

Reports of secret Israeli-Syrian contacts were "orchestrated by Israel to cast doubt on Syria's position," said Mr. Salman, quoted by the Ad Doustour daily.

Dr. Anani said Saturday there were reports "which say that Syrian delegations are negotiating with Israel" in secret.

But the Syrian minister insisted: "There are no secret negotiations between Syria and Israel, and all contacts are carried out solely through the intermediary of the United States."

Mr. Salman added that Israel "has still not accepted the principle of a just and comprehensive peace."

"The ideas that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will transmit during his next visit to Damascus will depend on the Israeli reaction to Syrian peace demands," he said.

Mr. Christopher is to begin a new shuttle mission to the Middle East in December.

Meanwhile a Syrian official in Damascus asserted the agreements Israel had struck with the Palestinians and Jordan had only served to advance the interests of the Jewish state.



The body of Rabbi Amiram Olmi from the West Bank settlement of Otalim lies next to his car after he was killed by gunfire during an attack near south of Hebron (AFP photo)

Jordan, Israel announce full ties

Barak no longer in list as possible envoy to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel on Sunday announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between them in line with the peace treaty the two countries signed on Oct. 26. Embassies are expected to be open in Amman and Tel Aviv on Dec. 10.

The Foreign Ministry also formally approved the nomination of Marwan Muasher, Jordan's spokesman during the peace negotiations with Israel, as the Kingdom's first ambassador to the Jewish state. The first formal step in the process was the appointment of Dr. Muasher, who also served as head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, as an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and forwarding his name to the Israeli foreign ministry for approval.

Meanwhile Israeli reports said Ehud Barak, the outgoing Israeli chief of staff, had turned down his nomination as Israel's ambassador to Jordan.

According to diplomatic sources, the Israeli government has not decided on who to nominate as its envoy in Amman and that a decision was expected this week.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that the first group of Jordanian tourists would leave for Israel on Monday after securing Israeli visas following a 10-day wait. The group would cross into Israel from the southern crossing point in the Wadi Araba which was opened on Aug. 8.

The announcement of diplomatic relations came in a joint statement issued simultaneously by the governments of the two countries. "The governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jor-

dan and the government of the State of Israel, based on Article 5 of the peace treaty of Oct. 26 and their desire to build and develop friendly relations and cooperation, have decided to establish diplomatic ties at the level of ambassadors effective today, Sunday," said the joint statement.

"On this occasion, the two countries voice their hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations will enhance and contribute to consolidating and boosting the basis of peace and launching development and forms of cooperation between them to achieve the interests of both countries and serve the cause of comprehensive peace in the region," said the statement.

The statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as well as the state-run media of the two countries,

said Amman and Tel Aviv would exchange ambassadors as early as possible.

The Council of Ministers adopted a formal decision on Nov. 19 to establish formal relations with Israel and the Cabinet decision was approved by His Majesty King Hussein who issued a Royal Decree, Petra said.

A Jordanian delegation headed by Omar Al Rifa'i from the Foreign Ministry is scheduled to visit Israel on Thursday and Friday to choose a site for the Jordanian embassy and residences for diplomats.

Officials have said that the two sides might rent hotel suites in Amman and Tel Aviv as temporary embassies and residences.

The embassies are expected to have a small staff in the initial phase; an ambas-

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Tension rekindled in 'Ain Al Hilweh

SIDON (AP) — Palestinian dissidents gave Yasser Arafat's loyalists a three-hour ultimatum to leave the biggest refugee camp in Lebanon Sunday or face an attack to evict them by force.

The warning by Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Maqdash, who defected from Mr. Arafat's ranks in protest against his self-rule accord with Israel last year, threatened to reignite street battles which killed 10 people and wounded 25 on Friday.

"You either get out by 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) or I shall lower the boom and send roofs crumbling down on your heads," Col. Maqdash said.

Speaking by telephone from his headquarters in the 'Ain Al Hilweh shantytown, he told the Associated Press that he had sent an emissary to the leadership of Mr. Arafat's loyalists to deliver the ultimatum.

The looming showdown in the camp, on the southeastern outskirts of this port city 40 kilometres south of Beirut, is unlikely to influence the crisis between Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority and Islamic fundamentalist factions opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

When news of Col. Maqdash's threat spread, scores of panicky Palestinian civilians hurriedly packed bundles of clothes and streamed out of areas controlled by Mr. Arafat's 150-strong loyalists in the northern section of the sprawling shantytown.

As they left, Col. Maqdash, who is backed by Syria and the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad factions, put his 300 guerrillas on alert in the southern part of the camp.

An aide to Col. Maqdash, Major Khaled Al Shayeb, resigned from his post, saying he did not want to be responsible for any further bloodshed.

"The current situation is like a powderkeg. It could explode any moment," Maj. Shayeb told the AP. "I don't want to have anything to do with it."

Arafat loyalists control about a quarter of 'Ain Al Hilweh, home to 60,000 Palestinians.

On Friday, the loyalists, led by intelligence chief Lt. Col. Kemal Medhat, launched attacks against Fateh dissidents to wrest control of the camp and managed to seize several posts held by their rivals.

But Col. Medhat's men were driven back in a counterattack a few hours later. Lebanese police have described Friday's clashes as the worst in Lebanon since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the limited self-rule accord with Israel Sept. 13, 1993.

President Elias Hrawi warned the warring factions Saturday that the government will send its army into 'Ain Al Hilweh to quell any renewal of the fighting.

There was no sign Sunday

PNA considers Hamas as negotiating partner

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian self-rule authority on Sunday began to consider Islamic militants as a serious negotiating partner after Hamas staged a peaceful rally of thousands of people.

"The authority has been trying to hold a dialogue with Hamas for a while now. But there were obstacles," said Ahmad Tibi, an advisor to the chairman of the self-rule, Palestine National Authority (PNA), Yasser Arafat.

"Now it's not so much the large number of (rally) participants that puts them in a position to negotiate, but the political situation here and the fact that they controlled themselves," Dr. Tibi said.

Speakers at Saturday's rally, which came eight days after violence between Palestinian police and Hamas left 14 people dead and 200 wounded, were careful to turn their wrath against Israel alone.

Hamas leader Ahmad Nimr told the crowd that the movement's armed wing, Izzedine Al Qassam, would not attack Palestinian policemen.

"Izzedine Al Qassam respects the orders of the political parties not to open fire because our bullets are reserved for our enemies."

Such statements and the fact that no guns were fired are bound to change the image of the radical group and drive home its importance as a negotiating partner.

Hamas leader Esmail Fajuri told AFP he expected future political life with the PNA to centre on "serious talks, and the right of every faction according to its real representation on the ground."

A recent poll by a Palestinian centre in the West Bank and Gaza showed 42 per cent supporting Mr. Arafat's Fateh, and 17.4 per cent supporting Hamas. Other opposition groups scored less.

The PNA has often begun talks with Hamas leaders, and Mr. Arafat has appointed a few of its members to important positions such as judge of Islamic courts.

But relations have been hampered by Hamas attacks against Israel by Gaza militants, or against Jewish settlers and Israeli soldiers on the Strip.

With each attack, Israel reminded Mr. Arafat of his commitment to prevent such acts in areas under his control, and the Palestinian

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Investment Promotion Department announces that its One-Stop Shop will receive all applications for investment in Jordan as of January 1st, 1994. The One-Stop Shop will process all applications and follow them through in lieu of the investors through the representatives of investment related ministries, departments and private and public sector agencies.

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هكذا منه الاصل

Palestinians poised to take charge of new powers

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinians are poised to take charge of tax-collection and health in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday to give them greater control of their daily lives.

Israel is to devolve power for health, direct taxes and value added tax to Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, after transferring control of education to the Palestinians in August and social affairs and tourism in mid-November.

The handover will complete the early transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians on the West Bank, as laid down in the September 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation declaration of principles on autonomy.

"We are ready to take charge of the health system," said Hussein Abdul Hadi, director of the Palestinian health ministry.

The self-rule authority will take responsibility for paying the salaries of 2,100 employees working in nine hospitals and 53 specialised clinics, as well as 170 first-aid centres.

All the employees are Palestinians who have worked until now for the health department of the Israeli military administration.



Militants waving black flags march through the crowd during a rally called by Hamas in Gaza City on Saturday (AFP photo)

Medical workers are counting on the Palestinian takeover to improve conditions in the West Bank's hospitals.

"I hope the health situation will improve," a doctor at Ramallah hospital, north of Jerusalem, told AFP. "We are suffering shortages of equipment and staff in hos-

pitals.

"I expect the Palestinian authority to give us the opportunity to offer a better service," the doctor said, asking not to be named.

The annual health budget for the West Bank is \$30 million, according to official Israeli figures.

"We are committed to putting in all the necessary money," stressed Atef Alauna, of the Palestinian finance ministry.

Next year the Palestinians forecast a total budget of \$150 million for the West Bank and Gaza Strip — more than double the current

spending, which could cause problems for the cash-strapped self-rule authority. The authority has already launched a huge campaign to encourage Palestinians to pay their taxes as a national duty, ahead of its takeover of tax-collection duties.

To explain changes to the system, supplements have been published in newspapers and official Palestinian radio has broadcast special programmes. Tax officials have even visited people's homes.

"We will always have to pay our taxes," grumbled Dimitri Zabana, a grocery wholesaler from Ramallah.

"But it's certainly not the same thing to pay the occupier to fund the construction of Jewish settlements as to pay our own authority," he added.

Taxes collected in the West Bank will provide the Palestinian Authority with \$350 million a year.

Palestinians began working alongside the Israeli administration in September to prepare it for taking over fiscal duties, a finance official said. Palestinian employees have also been trained in Israel in tax-collection, he added.

The handovers follow a pledge from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in early November that the Palestinians would take charge of their daily lives in the West Bank by the end of the month.

Israel had held up the transfer of power, demanding that the Palestinians first raise the money to operate the services. Mr. Rabin has said they were now securing the funds.

Meanwhile, Israeli-PLO negotiations on the redeployment of troops outside Palestinian towns and villages on the West Bank and on elections to a self-rule council — the crucial next stage of autonomy — are to start on Monday after a five-week suspension.

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are to meet in Brussels to try to set a date for the long-delayed elections. They will also discuss who would be eligible to sit on the Palestinian council and how much authority it should have.

Under the declaration of principles, elections were to have been held in July after Israeli forces pulled back from Palestinian populated areas.

Islamists walk tightrope between Israel, civil war

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Islamic militants are walking a tightrope by trying to fight Israel without sparking a civil war with Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, Palestinian officials said.

A deep divide between the Palestinian movements was papered over when Hamas told 20,000 people at a peaceful rally on Saturday that the militants would turn their guns on Israelis while keeping the truce with the authority.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials hailed the demonstrators as "responsible" for upholding an accord to avoid more violence like the Nov. 18 clashes between the self-rule police and Hamas supporters that left 14 people dead.

"We do not accept any peace between Arafat and the Israelis because Israel will only understand the language of force," Imad Falouji, an official with the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, told AFP.

But he added that his group's relations with the authority — which launched limited self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May — must be based on mutual respect.

Hamas seeks to prove that the "Islamists, and not Arafat, are capable of driving Israel out of the occupied territories and building a Palestinian state," he said.

But he acknowledged that the Islamists would be plunged into difficulties if they had to start running the autonomous Gaza Strip all of a sudden.

Hamas wants a state ruled by Sharia over all of the former Palestine, in place of Israel, but envisages a state in the Gaza Strip and West Bank as an intermediary step.

The PLO hopes that in later negotiations it will achieve a mini-state in Gaza and the West Bank with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The smaller militant group Islamic Jihad faces some of the same dilemmas as Hamas.

"The problem is how to

fight the battle against the Zionist enemy until victory without sparking an open conflict with the Palestinian Authority which signed the autonomy accords with Israel, a Jihad official told AFP.

To ease friction with this authority, he said, his group is ready to "reduce attacks in the Gaza Strip without completely ending them."

On the other hand, the Jihad "will strike twice as hard in the other parts of occupied Palestine," or in the West Bank and Israel proper, said the official requesting anonymity.

He was ready to admit that the autonomy accord was a fact "that no inter-Palestinian battle can change," although the deal was a capitulation.

The Jihad is putting its hopes on "the newfound unity in the Arab World" and places the Israeli-Palestinian conflict against a larger backdrop of the confrontation between the West and Islam.

"The Jewish state set up by the West in the heart of the Muslim World to tear it apart will end up being destroyed by the believers," the fundamentalist official said.

The Islamic Jihad was the first fundamentalist organisation to start the armed struggle against Israel, in the middle of the 1980s.

It has been largely underground in the Gaza Strip since autonomy was launched in May and it publishes 3,000 copies of a weekly called Istiqlal.

A spokesman for Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction, Suifan Abu Zaid, said meanwhile that the deal struck with the militants "is only a truce aimed at reducing tensions."

"For tactical reasons, the Islamic opposition is today avoiding confrontation with the authorities, as the balance of power is not in its favour," he said.

"But it's only postponed for a later date because the divide is too deep between the authority which defends the peace process and those who want to torpedo it," he said.

Polisario wants U.N. to leave W. Sahara

ALGIERS (AP) — The deputy leader of the Polisario Front said Sunday he wants the United Nations to withdraw its mission from the disputed Western Sahara so his guerrilla organisation can resume combat.

The remarks cast a new shadow over U.N. efforts to organise a referendum to determine the future of the territory, claimed by Morocco since 1975. They were made at a news conference in Tindouf, in southwestern Algeria, as U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali visited refugee camps there and met with Polisario leaders.

The Polisario has been fighting for independence for the Western Sahara since Spain gave up claims to the territory in 1975. The two

sides have observed a ceasefire in their costly war since September 1991 as part of the U.N. peace effort.

"The Saharawis hope that Ghali will make good on his threat to withdraw the United Nations from the Western Sahara so the armed struggle can be resumed without making problems with (U.N. forces) or the Security Council," Bachir Mustapha-Sayed said. He was quoted by the official Algerian APS news agency.

It was not clear whether he reflected the thinking of Polisario leader Mohammad Abdul Aziz, who called for direct negotiations with Morocco to resolve differences in an interview published Sunday with the Algerian pro-government news-

paper El Moudjahid.

Mr. Abdul Aziz met Sunday in Tindouf with Dr. Ghali, who was then going on to Layoune, where the U.N. mission is based, before a three-day visit to Morocco.

Dr. Ghali's trip is aimed at speeding up the bogged down process of registering voters for an eventual referendum on the Western Sahara's fate. The voting was to be held in February but was cancelled for a second time because of differences between Morocco and the Polisario over how to choose potential voters.

"The Security Council wants a date for the referendum. The longer the United Nations stays in the Western Sahara, the more expensive it gets," Dr. Ghali said in Algiers Saturday.

The Polisario accuses Morocco of bloating the ranks of pro-Morocco voters through "colonisation" of the territory. It wants the head count identifying legitimate voters to be based on a 1974 Spanish census. Morocco claims the census does not reflect reality.

The United Nations has been working since August to identify potential voters in the largely desert but mineral-rich territory.

Mr. Mustapha-Sayed said the visit by Dr. Ghali "could bring peace closer or accelerate the return to war."

Mr. Abdul Aziz, the Polisario's president, said in the newspaper interview that only direct negotiations with Morocco could settle the problem.

Iran's paramilitary forces begin show of force

NICOSIA (AP) — Thousands of paramilitary troops began a nationwide show of force in Iran Saturday amid fears that worsening economic and social conditions could lead to civil disobedience.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the war games were codenamed Ya Zahra, in memory of Fatima Al Zahra, the daughter of the Prophet Mohammad. Her birth anniversary was marked last week.

The agency gave no details of the exercises, the number of volunteer forces involved or the duration of the manoeuvres.

But similar events in the past by other military groups have included setting up checkpoints to search cars and pedestrians for weapons, explosives or any sort of contraband goods. They also hunted down violators of the Islamic dress codes.

IRNA said top security and military officials attended a ceremony for the occasion in Tehran.

Earlier this week, Brigadier General Alireza Afshar, commander of the paramilitary Basij forces, said 761 battalions with a total of 400,000 troops will take part in the manoeuvres.

Riots have broken out in nearly every major Iranian city in the past two years. They were coupled with series of bombings which have killed dozens of people.

These events have made security a top priority of Iran's clerical regime.

Since the end of Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq, the Basij, or mobilisation force, has been charged with enforcing internal security and quashing dissent.

The Basij is an armed but poorly trained volunteer force made up mostly of youths drawn from the im-

poverished millions who form the government's power base.

Authorities dispatched the Basij to the northwestern city of Qazvin in August following a two-day rampage in which shops, banks and government buildings were looted and set ablaze.

Later that month, 280,000 Basij forces took part in manoeuvres in Tehran and several major cities.

Most of Iran's 60 million people live in poverty, and deteriorating economic conditions look to worsen. Since last year, the security forces have been granted unprecedented powers to quell unrest.

Earlier this month the Majlis, or parliament, approved a bill allowing law enforcement officers to fire on demonstrators and give them immunity if they killed anyone.

Another bill passed shortly

afterwards bolstered the powers of the Ministry of Intelligence, authorising it to "identify and neutralise internal and external threats" and to "cleanse the society's political environment."

President Hashemi Rafsanjani, whose government is struggling under some \$33 billion in foreign debts, has been backpedalling on reforms that were meant to loosen the government's stranglehold on the economy.

The public has grown increasingly disenchanted with the government as runaway inflation, unofficially estimated at 60 per cent, pushed the prices of staple goods beyond the means of many Iranians.

The government has launched a campaign against "profiteers" imposing heavy fines, but Tehran residents say this has been only partially successful.

More stolen Saudi jewels turn up in Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Thai police said on Sunday they had recovered more jewellery believed to be part of a \$20 million haul stolen from a palace in Saudi Arabia five years ago.

Two boxes containing more than 20 pieces of jewellery and other valuable objects were picked up late on Saturday

night from separate locations in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai, police said.

The boxes contained watches studded with diamonds, bracelets, diamond rings, pearl necklaces, earrings, silver and golden spoons, women's blouses and purses and radios.

Police gave no details of

how the items were recovered.

Saturday's find was the fourth lot of jewellery retrieved in the past two weeks since police encouraged people to return the gems anonymously.

On Nov. 13 police, acting on an anonymous tip, found jewellery including a di-

amond bracelet and earrings in a box on a Bangkok street.

Three days later an unidentified man handed a parcel in at a night-time police checkpoint and sped off on a motorcycle. The parcel contained three gold watches studded with diamonds and marked with the Saudi royal emblem.

Egypt is 'indifferent' to violence against women

CAIRO (AFP) — Women are daily victims of violence in Egypt but their screams fall on deaf ears in a country where male pride comes first, feminists and sociologists complain.

"Rape, women beaten or murdered by their husbands and the circumcision of girls are part of our daily life and draw only general indifference," according to Aida Seif Al Dawla, a psychiatrist who treats such victims.

The Interior Ministry says 48 women suspected of cheating on their husbands or having had sexual relations before marriage were killed in 1992.

But Ahmad Al Magdub, a sociologist at the National Centre for Research on Crime, said the figure is much higher because in the countryside such murders are never reported.

The English-language newspaper Egyptian Gazette says that every year a woman is murdered by her husband.

A woman who kills her husband is a extraordinary phenomenon splashed in every newspaper but the reverse goes unnoticed," Dr. Seif Al Dawla said.

Amina Shafiq, who represents the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International in Egypt, is also outraged.

"Nobody asks why a woman kills her husband. But how many of them, having waited for years while their husbands worked in the Gulf, have been abandoned with their children when they return," she said.

"With a little money in his pocket, he looks immediately for a new wife," she said. "I understand the frustration

which can lead women to desperate acts."

Lawyer Amira Bahadri said Egyptian laws are stacked against women.

A man who kills his wife for adultery faces between 20 hours and three years in prison, while a woman can be behind bars for 25 years if convicted of the same crime.

"Such legal discrimination shows that society considers women as inferior to men," according to Dr. Seif Al Dawla, who said only men have their honour blemished.

"Is it believable that after all the debate on circumcision at the U.N. Population conference in Cairo in September, Health Minister Al Abdullah Farah called for a law legalising this practice, which supposedly protects a girl's honour," she asked.

"Worse still, society makes women assume responsibility for rape on the pretext that she probably provoked it by her behaviour or dress," Dr. Seif Al Dawla said.

When a girl was raped at a bus station two years ago in the heart of Cairo, the people who came to her defence were forced to point out that she was veiled and accompanied by her mother, the feminist said.

Rape and other violence suffered by women is shrouded in silence.

"There are no reliable figures on rape because women refuse to take legal action in order to avoid a scandal," she said.

"Most of the time battered women don't ask for divorce because they have no choice," Dr. Seif Al Dawla said.

Tight security for opera extravaganza in Egypt

LUXOR, Egypt (R) — Egyptian police scanned the mountains and sugarcane fields west of Luxor with powerful searchlights on Saturday night as the rich and famous drove past mudbrick hovels to a \$3.5 million opera extravaganza.

Thousands of heavily armed policemen guarded the 3,200-year-old temple of Queen Hatshepsut, venue for a lavish production of Verdi's Aida, in an attempt to show the world that southern Egypt was safe for tourists.

Inflatable police dinghies cruised up and down the Nile, apparently on the lookout for the kind of Islamic militants who have killed seven tourists in 22 attacks since Oct. 1992.

The opera itself, produced by Italian impresario Vittorio Rossi, went without a hitch but some members of the audience said they were surprised at the massive security operation.

"It's extraordinary, just like the (extraordinary war film) Apocalypse Now," said an Italian from Cairo.

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni, mastermind of the extravaganza, told reporters Muslim militant violence had diminished anyway. "It's just a few incidents here and there, it's nothing really serious," he said.

The opera was more than an artistic event, he added. "It's economic, it opens the door to the future," he said, referring to the government's hopes that Aida will help draw back foreigners frightened off by the Islamist campaign of violence.

But Egyptian-born actor Omar Sharif, one of the few celebrities to attend from abroad, said he doubted a

single opera production could make much difference.

"The tourists are already here and what better place to stage Aida?" he told reporters in the intermission as he signed autographs and posed with young Italian women.

The opera, a love story set in ancient Egypt, was commissioned for the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 at the original Cairo Opera House was built for the first performance.

The organisers had said Prince Charles of Britain, Queen Noor, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain and U.S. actress Jane Fonda would be attending.

But the only royalty present were the Duke of Kent, cousin of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, and his wife Princess Michael.

President Hosni Mubarak's wife Suzanne came and went in a convoy of 11 vehicles, escorted by helicopters.

Commandos of the presidential guard secured the route which runs from Luxor town to the temple, across the Nile on a new pontoon bridge.

The government has cut down 300 acres of sugarcane along the new road so that Muslim militants cannot take cover there if they choose to ambush opera goers.

Hoteliers said occupancy rates had risen to 90 per cent for the six nights of the opera, from 50 per cent earlier in the month.

Taxi drivers and shopkeepers said they too had noticed an increase in business over the past week.

"Business is looking up, because of the opera, and because the security situation is stable," said Mohamed Azzab, owner of the Opera Aida souvenir.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Un Pour Tous
17:30 Le Vent Des Merveilles
18:00 Le Vent Des Merveilles
18:30 New in French
19:15 Magazine Sportif
19:30 Black Beauty
20:00 Boogies Dancer
20:30 Quantum Leap
21:10 Shades of L.A.
21:40 News in English
22:20 Headliners

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr
06:10 (Sunrise) Duha
11:23 Dhur
16:37 Maghrib
17:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternostochka Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression accompanied by a cold air mass will affect the Kingdom, that it will be cold, rainy, and cloudy with winds westerly moderate to active. In Amman, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 6 / 10

Amman 12 / 21

Deserts 5 / 13

Jordan Valley 11 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

Amman 23°C

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gypt is 'indifferent' to violence against women

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1994 3

VISITING AMMAN MUNICIPALITY: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Sunday visits the Greater Amman Municipality and is briefed by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi on services it offers to Amman residents as well as its future plans and programmes. Prince Mohammad lauded the distinguished efforts exerted by the municipality to expand public parks and construct pedestrian tunnels, saying these tunnels have significantly contributed to reducing road accidents in crowded areas. The Regent urged the municipality to continue its good performance (Petra photo)



Visiting Dutch business team agrees to spur private sector activity with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Verberk, chairman of a 25-member Dutch business delegation Sunday met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and the two sides agreed on steps to be taken to stimulate and encourage each other's private sector activities.

Both sides sought in particular the implementation of projects that would help reduce unemployment and raise the standard of living in Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Verberk leads a multi-sectoral trade mission comprised of representatives of Dutch companies active in consultancy, construction and contracting, agriculture, supply and chemical industries.

The Dutch delegation met Sunday with Agriculture Ministry Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Arabi and discussed cooperation in farming, dairy production, agro production and processing, animal husbandry and other related topics.

The visiting team also met with government officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce to explore areas for mutual cooperation.

During their visit they were expected to meet with other officials and businesspersons



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday meets with a visiting delegation from the Netherlands (Petra photo)

before leaving for Syria and Lebanon.

Jordan last year imported JD 62 million worth of Dutch goods and exported JD 10 million worth of fertilisers, potash, and phosphate.

Jordanian imports from the Netherlands are mainly live cattle, fresh meat, milk, cheese, seeds, cooking fat and oil.

The Dutch team also Sunday met Khalid Abu Hassan, chairman of the Amman

Chamber of Industry, who urged the visiting businesspersons to invest in projects at the Dead Sea and to expand the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC).

The Kingdom offers lucrative incentives to foreign investors and has already attracted 50 foreign firms.

Referring to the industrial sector, Mr. Abu Hassan said

that it contributes to about 20 per cent of the Kingdom's gross domestic product and accounts for 90 per cent of total national exports.

He said nearly 120,000 workers are employed in Jordanian factories, mines and other industry-related businesses.

Mr. Verberk said some of the Dutch delegation have already started contacts with Jordanian businessmen to launch joint ventures.

Kabariti condemns 'massacres' in Bosnia

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday voiced the committee's condemnation of the "ugly massacres of Muslim citizens in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Mr. Kabariti said the fighting in Bosnia was a flagrant example of the ethnic cleansing crimes taking place under the nose of the international community which is doing nothing to help stop them.

In spite of the fact that the Jordanian people are now busy tackling vital issues, said Mr. Kabariti, they cannot but

express their sympathy with the innocent Bosnian Muslims.

Mr. Kabariti urged all countries and organisations which believe in human rights to take effective measures to bring an end to these malpractices.

Also Sunday, the Lower House of Parliament met under the chairmanship of Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srouf to hear complaints by deputies Nazih Ammarin and Mahmoud Huweimil on problems facing farmers. The House also heard replies by several ministers to deputies' queries.

Minister urges investment in rain-fed agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif complained Sunday about insufficient investments in rain-fed agricultural regions of Jordan — a trend, he said, which started in the 1980s.

The Ministry of Agriculture is encouraging Jordanians to invest in rain-fed agricultural regions and reclaim areas in mountainous regions to help contribute to enabling the country towards self-sufficiency in food production, said Mr. Ben Tarif.

Mr. Ben Tarif was speaking during a visit to the Agriculture Ministry by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali

who attended part of a weekly meeting by the ministry's department directors.

He outlined the Agriculture Ministry's policies, adding that the ministry prepared a document, for publication by year end, featuring the national agricultural policies which aim at ensuring an integrated system.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Majali urged the ministry to employ modern technology to meet the challenges of the coming stage and direct its attention towards increasing and improving food production and upgrading related research.

British Airways to resume regular London-Amman flights on Dec. 5

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first regular British Airways (BA) flight will land in Amman on Dec. 5, resuming non-stop BA flights between London and the Jordanian capital after a hiatus of five years, airline officials announced Sunday.

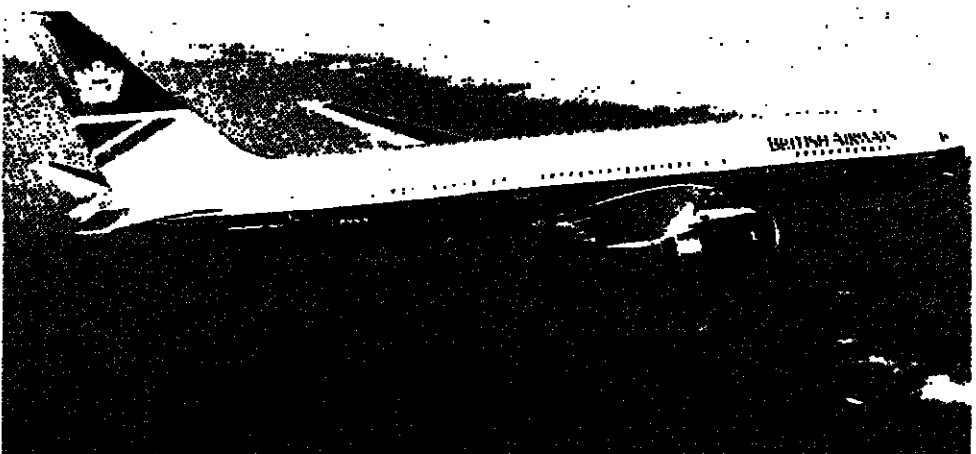
BA is the first airline to resume Amman flights after the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Oct. 26. The peace treaty ended a 46-year state of war and paved the way for full diplomatic relations (see page one) and economic cooperation, including joint tourism packages, between the Kingdom and the Jewish state.

Tony Christodoulou, public affairs consultant of BA, noted that Jordan was giving priority to developing the tourism sector in the wake of the breakthrough in the three-year-old peace process.

The peace accord had increased prospects for tourism to Jordan and the rest of the Middle East, and British Airways hopes to take its share of the expected prospects, Mr. Christodoulou told reporters at an event held Saturday to announce the resumption of the BA flights.

Rose Latty, BA spokesperson in Amman, said she hoped that the new Amman-London-Amman service would eventually be raised to four flights a week from the initial twice-weekly flights.

The airline will operate Boeing 767 planes on the route, leaving London at 4:10 p.m. on Mondays and 3:35 p.m. on Saturday and



arriving in Amman at 11:10 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. respectively, Ms. Latty said.

Tour operators noted that the resumption of BA flights was a positive indicator to the overall tourism industry for Jordan in that the leading British carrier is known to be highly conservative, weighing the pros and cons of any destination before deciding to fly there.

Several other European airlines, including Lufthansa of Germany, are reportedly considering plans to resume Amman flights they suspended after the Gulf crisis of 1990-91 triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Airline sources said Lufthansa was planning to resume flights in April. No independent confirmation was immediately available.

No North American airline is known to be considering any flights to Am-

man in the short term. "They are still smarting from the TWA hijack to Beirut" in 1985, said an airline official.

British Airways suspended Amman flights in 1989 because of what its officials described as technical reasons. Subsequently, Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national carrier, stepped in to fill in the gap by increasing from two to four its weekly flights to London.

The resumption of BA flights is not expected to have any serious impact of RJ flights, given the expected rise in the number of British businessmen and tourists visiting Jordan, taking heart from the state of peace after decades of conflict.

Alan Briggs, the Cairo-based BA area manager for the Near East and North Africa, said he favoured the moving of his office to

Amman. "Quality of life," he said in response to a question whether the airline was considering moving the Near East and North Africa office to Amman.

The British Airways flights to Amman and back would also mark a first in the whole of the Near East: the airline is introducing "en route sleeper service" for first class passengers.

The Boeing 767 will have 10 first class seats, 42 business class and 141 "World Traveller" class on its Amman flights, said Mr. Briggs.

More rain expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Sunday expects more rain in Jordan Monday and Tuesday, saying that the Kingdom is still affected by the cold atmospheric depression centred in northern Syria.

A department official said temperatures will reach a maximum of 10°C on Monday and will drop to 4°C that evening. He said the rainfall which started Sunday in the north would spread to the south and most areas of the Kingdom.

According to the official, the formation of fog in hilly areas will cause poor visibility, and he urged extra caution while driving.

Meanwhile the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) reported the country's dams are nearly 50 per cent full, a result of the November rains. Hashem Shbouh, JVA secretary general, said that water collected in the King Talal Dam, the largest in the country, was estimated at slightly above 40 million cubic metres (MCM), half of the dam's total capacity.

Water ministry to announce tenders in '95 for Dead Sea coast projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation next year will announce tenders for investment projects along the Dead Sea coast and will invite local and foreign firms to bid and execute the schemes.

The announcement was made by Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irsheidat Sunday at a meeting called to review the finalised plans for the development of the Dead Sea coast, as prepared in cooperation with a French consultancy firm.

Noting that a local and French firm jointly prepared the studies over the past six months, Dr. Irsheidat said that the development plans are to be carried out along a 60-kilometre stretch of the coast in addition to selected

areas on the adjacent mountainous terrain. He said the two-phase investment scheme envisages setting up hotels, tourist villages, entertainment centres, public gardens, and therapeutic spas benefiting from the Dead Sea environment, adding that the private sector has already indicated interest in such endeavours.

Pointing out that the schemes will be implemented through the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), the minister said the first phase of the projects would be quick and immediate; the other, he said, is a long term venture requiring all the necessary infrastructure services.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan along with repre-

sentatives of the ministries of Planning, Industry, and Trade, Municipal Affairs, and Finance were present at the meeting convened at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

That the Minister of Tourism was present, said Dr. Irsheidat, underlines the importance the government attaches to these schemes to serve as tourist attractions.

A representative of the French consultancy firm said he believed that the Dead Sea and its projects hold major potential for tourism in the Kingdom.

Together with such treasures like Petra, Jerash and Amman, the Dead Sea would further boost the tourism industry in the country, he added.

ILO to help ministry to set up data bank

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior International Labour Organisation (ILO) official Sunday said the ILO would help the Labour Ministry establish a data bank and offer ministry officials training scholarships in employment, expatriate workers' issues, occupational safety and workers education.

Speaking at a meeting here with Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi, Shukri Dajani, assistant ILO director general, said that this office plans to help Jordan set a national strategy to cope with its unemployment problem and assist in vocational training matters.

The ILO would provide experts to supervise training courses for Jordanian personnel and to help establish the ministry's data bank on labour-related matters, added Mr. Dajani.

He said mutual cooperation would be necessary and vital especially in the field of employment and in helping to set up a Jordanian employ-

ment corporation.

The labour minister and Mr. Dajani reviewed the ministry's programmes concerning occupational safety, workers' education and also areas where the ILO can be of benefit to the ministry.

Mr. Ghazawi said the ministry has advanced in laying the

groundwork for an information network serving as a nucleus for a data bank on labour in Jordan.

He told Mr. Dajani that the Labour Ministry was in need of ILO assistance in financing facilities required to ensure occupational safety programmes in Jordan.

UNICEF cards are out

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The holiday season is fast approaching and with it come the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) annual greeting cards, gifts and calendar sales.

As the various religious and secular holidays this year will run almost back to back, UNICEF's sale campaign will begin with the pre-Christmas season, to New Year's and on through the month of Ramadan, according to UNICEF Information/Communication Officer Sima Bahous.

The selections of greeting cards this winter include various holiday, seasonal, and religious themes, said Dr. Bahous, from nativity scenes, depictions of the season from the eyes of children, and calligraphic expressions by artists from Jordan, Egypt, Iran and Turkey.

The UNICEF greeting cards idea began in 1949 when a seven-year-old girl, Jitka Samkova, made a painting for UNICEF in thanks for the help the agency gave to her war-ravaged village in Czechoslovakia. Her design became the first UNICEF card, according to the agency.

UNICEF is the only organisation within the United Nations system dedicated exclusively to the welfare of children. As such it was origi-

nally created in 1946 to provide massive relief to the destitute young victims of World War II.

According to the agency, the proceeds from the sale of greeting cards, stationery and calendars worldwide help to finance its income. All designs for UNICEF cards are contributed by artists or museums, and the sales force of UNICEF national committees, private organisations and individuals is nearly 100 per cent volunteer.

The agency, therefore, says that it incurs only minimum administrative expenses and the actual production cost. All of the unusually high profit, UNICEF says, goes directly into its projects for children.

According to the agency, over the past 35 years, its card sales have netted about \$200 million, and all of this money was spent on basic services for children and mothers, including maternal and child health care, clean water supply, improved nutrition, education, and social services.

In an information leaflet produced by UNICEF, the agency says: "This year, the Third World's foreign debts and the interest payments that have to service them total more than \$175 billion. This is three times the total aid Third World countries receive. The persistence of this problem throughout the



UNICEF cards and stationery

90s will result in the death of more than 100 million children, leaving millions others suffering from chronic malnutrition and ill health."

With that, the agency appeals to all concerned to contribute to achieving its goals of ensuring the minimum rights of children so

that they might grow to their full potential, physically and psychologically. UNICEF depends significantly on its annual greeting cards sales to help fulfill that mission.

Further information can be obtained from UNICEF's Amman Office, telephone 629571.

Qatari official arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Head of Qatar's General Commission on Youth and Sports Sheikh Mohammad Ben Eid Al Thani Sunday arrived in Amman on a four-day visit to Jordan at an invitation by Youth Minister Fawwaz Abul Ghanam.

The official said that his office plans to help Jordan set a national strategy to cope with its unemployment problem and assist in vocational training matters.

The ILO would provide experts to supervise training courses for Jordanian personnel and to help establish the ministry's data bank on labour-related matters, added Mr. Dajani.

He said mutual cooperation would be necessary and vital especially in the field of employment and in helping to set up a Jordanian employ-

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In an information leaflet produced by UNICEF, the agency says: "This year, the Third World's foreign debts and the interest payments that have to service them total more than \$175 billion. This is three times the total aid Third World countries receive. The persistence of this problem throughout the

90s will result in the death of more than 100 million children, leaving millions others suffering from chronic malnutrition and ill health."

With that, the agency appeals to all concerned to contribute to achieving its goals of ensuring the minimum rights of children so

that they might grow to their full potential, physically and psychologically. UNICEF depends significantly on its annual greeting cards sales to help fulfill that mission.

Further information can be obtained from UNICEF's Amman Office, telephone 629571.

UNICEF is the only organisation within the United Nations system dedicated exclusively to the welfare of children. As such it was origi-

ally created in 1946 to provide massive relief to the destitute young victims of World War II.

According to the agency, the proceeds from the sale of greeting cards, stationery and calendars worldwide help to finance its income. All designs for UNICEF cards are contributed by artists or museums, and the sales force of UNICEF national committees, private organisations and individuals is nearly 100 per cent volunteer.

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ally created in 1946 to provide massive relief to the destitute young victims of World War II.

Chechen opposition pulls back after failing to take Grozny

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Forces of the Moscow-backed opposition in Chechnya have withdrawn after an unsuccessful attempt to capture the capital Grozny, a spokesman for the Russian.

Hundreds of Moscow-backed troops withdrew from Grozny overnight Saturday "in order to regroup their forces," the FSK spokesman said.

Loyalist commanders told the Interfax News Agency the opposition lost more than 200 men and about 20 tanks in the bloody battle Friday and Saturday.

The troops had pulled back to positions over 20 kilometres outside Grozny, hidden from the city by hills, the commanders said.

Quoting the army general staff, Interfax said Chechen government forces had captured 12 tanks and taken 120 prisoners.

"Among the prisoners are around 68 Russian soldiers, the general staff said, accusing Moscow of direct involvement in the opposition attempt to overthrow President Dzhokhar Dudayev."

The FSK spokesman acknowledged that Moscow provided military equipment and financial help for the rebels but he denied claims that it had also provided troops and said the prisoners claimed by the loyalists were probably mercenaries.

Appearing to back that claim, one of the prisoners, who gave his name as Major Valeri Ivanov, told Interfax

in an interview that he had been recruited by the opposition and was being paid three million rubles (\$1,000) a month.

The Chechen opposition has itself issued no statement since it claimed victory Saturday in the battle for the capital of the small Muslim republic in the Russian Caucasus, which has defied Moscow since proclaiming itself independent in 1991.

Moscow refuses to recognise the independence of the breakaway region, led by the former Red Army General Dudayev, and home to 1.2 million people, most of them Muslims.

And it claims the oil-rich region as one of the 89 members of the Russian Federation formed after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Mr. Dudayev's spokesman Mussa Merjuev Sunday again accused Moscow of involvement in the Chechen battle and threatened Sunday to shoot the Russian prisoners held if Moscow did not end its "adventure."

The prisoners would "probably be freed as a goodwill gesture," Mr. Merjuev said, "but if Moscow continues its military adventure in the northern Caucasus, they will, of course, be shot."

No independent witness accounts of the condition of the town or state of the fighting could be obtained from Grozny by midday Sunday.

At one point the opposition had control of the television tower and claimed victory but this was refuted by

the Chechen government. Fighting continued into the late afternoon Saturday, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

The assault launched by opposition troops was the most decisive move in four months of sporadic efforts to topple Mr. Dudayev.

The assault began Friday with attacks on government positions by 40 opposition helicopters.

Several hundred men, supported by 35 armoured cars, then pushed their way into the town centre before being forced to retreat several hours later.

The opposition, which is supported by the rebellious former Russian parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, has been gathering strength since an opposition "Provisional Council" was formed, backed by Moscow, in August.

The offensive was led by Beslan Ganemirov and brought the conflict to the capital's centre for the first time.

"We will be in the presidential building tomorrow," a spokesman for Mr. Khasbulatov said Sunday.

Mr. Khasbulatov, meeting with military advisers at his base at Tolstoi-Yurt, 20 kilometres north of Grozny, also indicated that the offensive was not over. Asked by the Associated Press what his plans were, he replied, "No comment. We'll talk there (the presidential palace) tomorrow."

Mr. Dudayev Saturday vowed to fight to the end against what he called Russian aggression. "If Russia continues this path, we have no other option — Russia is the aggressor," he said in a telephone interview.

Outside Mr. Khasbulatov's headquarters, Russian-speaking crews climbed into seven T-72 tanks and prepared for the next confrontation.

One blond-haired tank commander left no doubt about his nationality. "Do I look like a Chechen?" he asked. Queried about reports that each soldier had received 5 million rubles (\$1,500) for Saturday's assault on Grozny, he said, "we all have our own reasons for being here."

In Grozny, townspeople assessed the damage from Saturday's offensive, sweeping up broken glass from smashed shop windows on Victory Street, where flames shot into the air from broken gas pipes.

Forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev gathered outside the presidential mansion as other troops patrolled the Palace Square. Several shots were fired by nervous soldiers, sending passersby running for cover.

Government spokesman Movladi Udugov put government losses at 20 dead in Saturday's offensive. He said government forces destroyed or captured 30 opposition tanks and downed four helicopters and one SU-25 airplane.



ROYAL ENGAGEMENT: The oldest daughter of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, Infanta Elena (right) and her fiancé Jaime De Marichalar pose for photographers in the garden of the Zarzuela Palace after their engagement was announced Saturday (see story page 12) (AFP photo)

1,000 S. African soldiers mobilise for peacekeeping in Angola

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — One thousand South African soldiers are mobilising to assist a regional peacekeeping force in shoring up a shaky ceasefire in Angola, South African Defence Force (SANDF) officials said Sunday.

The mobilisation is in anticipation of cabinet approval of a U.N. request that South Africa send troops to form part of a new 7,000-strong regional deployment in Angola, the officials, quoted widely in South Africa's media, added.

The South African cabinet is due Wednesday to debate the request, by the U.N. secretary-general's special representative in Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times said an engineer battalion and an air-support detachment had been put on standby to join the multinational United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) III.

Defence Minister Joe Modise said earlier this week that although the government was reluctant to commit troops to Angola, "once the request is made it is going to be very difficult to say no."

Mr. Modise's deputy, Ronnie Kasrils, added that South Africa was "totally committed" to assisting the peace process in Angola.

"Peacekeeping can work as long as both sides are committed to peace," Mr. Kasrils said.

Foreign Affairs Director General Evans said the deployment of a U.N. force was crucial to the implementation of the Nov. 20 Lusaka protocol, under which the Angolan government and the rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) movement agreed to end their 19-year civil war and authorised a ceasefire from last Tuesday.

Mr. Evans said that because of South Africa's historical involvement in the Angolan civil war, the U.N. did not expect Pretoria to send combat troops.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the former white minority Pretoria government gave military and financial support to UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in his fight against the forces of Marxist President Eduardo Dos Santos.

Mr. Evans said, however, that South Africa was now well-placed to provide logistical support, communications, engineers and carriers.

An air force spokesman said the South African Air Force will provide transport aircraft and helicopters if the cabinet approves the Angolan mission.

Zambia and Zimbabwe, whose soldiers won high

praise in the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Somalia, are sending up to six infantry battalions to Angola.

If the peace accord holds, Mr. Evans added, UNAVEM III, should be operational by early January.

South Africa has so far resisted pressure to send troops to Rwanda, Haiti and Lesotho but because Angola is seen as more of a regional responsibility, indications are the cabinet will reluctantly approve the deployment.

Meanwhile, Angolan state radio Sunday repeated a government demand for the release of four helicopter crewmen alleged to have been captured by Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels after being shot down in the south.

"The Angolan Air Force demands the unconditional release of these men," the radio said.

The Luanda government charged Saturday that rebels shot down the helicopter, killing 22 people on board, while it was ferrying wounded soldiers from the southeastern city of Cuito-Cuanavale.

The government and UNITA have repeatedly accused each other of violating a ceasefire signed in Lusaka last Tuesday to end a 19-year civil war in Angola.

Early Beatles disc fetches \$17,200

LONDON (R) — The first Beatles record ever to be played on radio fetched a world record price for a commercially produced disc of £11,000 (\$17,200), Bonham's Auctioneers said. A spokeswoman said the recording of Love Me Do played by Radio Luxembourg in 1963 launched the Liverpool pop group on their way to fame and fortune. "This record was the first ever played (on radio)... it was responsible for launching 'Beatlemania,'" the spokeswoman said. It was bought by Mikel Bansa, a Madrid man who works in the music business and plans to hang it on a wall at home. The disc was put up for auction by British Disc Jockey Tony Prince, who inherited the record during a clearance of the radio Luxembourg Library. Bonham's said Mr. Prince wrote to ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, who confirmed that, as far as he knew, Luxembourg was the first radio station to play a Beatles record. The vinyl disc was a demonstration copy signed by Paul McCartney — whose name was misspelled "McArtny" — on the Parlophone label — as co-writer of the song with John Lennon.

No police security for alleged Ramos lover

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos's security chief has denied that police were ever assigned to guard a socialite rumoured to have once been a mistress of Mr. Ramos. Contrary to newspaper reports, no policeman provided security for Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas during her recent visit to central Cebu City or escorted her out of Manila airport on her return from the trip, General Leo Alvarez said Saturday. Some VIPs, including politicians' relatives and other influential people, used police as bodyguards until the government banned the practice. Both Mr. Ramos and Ms. Arenas have dismissed as gossip newspaper reports that they were once lovers.

Police probe U.K.'s biggest child sex abuse case

LONDON (R) — Northern Ireland police have uncovered Britain's biggest child sex abuse case, allegedly involving more than 100 children, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday. The Observer, in a front-page report, said a massive police dossier built up during investigations would be handed to state prosecutors next week. It said the investigation centred on a public housing estate in Londonderry, northwest of Belfast. Three men are in custody and more than a dozen others have been questioned and released but other charges are expected to follow. According to one source quoted by the Observer, the alleged paedophile ring on the estate has involved "the biggest child sex abuse investigations ever in these islands." It said the abuses described by children allegedly involved, mostly boys aged between eight and 12, included rape, buggery and group sex. There are also allegations of violence and threats to kidnap, the Observer reported. Northern Ireland police confirmed there had been an investigation into alleged child sex abuse in the Londonderry area but said the case was now sub judice and refused to comment further.

British woman priest weds divorcee

LONDON (AFP) — A Church of England woman priest Saturday became the first British clergywoman to marry a divorced man, tying the knot in a civil ceremony after her bishop ruled against a church wedding. The Reverend Christine Streeter, the curate at Rosedale Abbey in York, northern England, met her husband, David Haddon-Reece, during a pastoral visit to his home two years ago. A vicar from the neighbouring parish blessed the couple in a ceremony at St. Mary's Church, Lastingham, after the civil ceremony wedding. The new Mrs. Haddon-Reece said she had not become involved in the Church of England's internal debate on remarriage divorcees. Mr. Haddon-Reece, a retired archaeologist, said that his wife had baptised him into the church 18 months ago.

Uruguayans vote for new president

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Ten years after it emerged from a decade of military rule, Uruguay chooses a new president Sunday in the closest contest in its 166-year history.

Uruguay is South America's second-smallest country, with some 2.3 million registered voters.

The three parties vying for the presidency are at most 1.6 points apart in opinion polls, with 28.6 per cent for the

ruling centrist National Party, 28.4 per cent for the rival centrist Colorado Party and 27 per cent for the centre-left Progressive Gathering.

Under Uruguay's complex electoral laws, each party can field as many presidential candidates as it wants. The centre-left Alliance has only one, but the National Party and the Colorados have three each.

The winner will succeed

President Luis Alberto Lacalle, whose efforts to push his country toward Latin America's free-markets bandwagon were defeated by a 1992 referendum which showed most Uruguayans opposed economic liberalism.

His National Party's top contender is Alberto Volonté, 55, a free-market businessman and a newcomer to politics who struck a populist note in his campaign.

Britain confirms talks with Sinn Fein this year

LONDON (R) — Britain said it would open direct talks with the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein this year, as planned, despite delays to Northern Ireland's peace process. Michael Ancram, junior minister responsible for the province, said in a speech Saturday night that senior civil servants would sit down with Sinn Fein members within a month.

Discussions with Protestant paramilitary groups determined to keep Northern Ireland British would also start by the end of December, he said.

The fall of the Irish Republic's government two weeks ago has upset the timetable for the fragile peace process and left Britain, less keen than Ireland to race ahead, in charge.

"We have carefully reviewed the actions of Sinn Fein and the IRA. These have been more compelling than their words," Mr. Ancram told a political meeting in Northern Ireland.

"This means we can move carefully towards the beginning of exploratory dialogue with Sinn Fein before Christmas provided that the Irish Republican Army continues to show that it has ended terrorism."

U.N. opens human rights office in Guatemala amid rising violence

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — The United Nations has opened its doors to monitor human rights in Guatemala amid ballooning political violence and an ongoing civil war in the Central American nation.

Despite government assertions that Guatemala's human rights record is improving, the Roman Catholic Church has recorded a "significant rise" in political killings, threats against judges and witnesses in key human rights cases, and an upsurge in attacks by leftist guerrillas.

"It's very worrying," Ronald Ochoaeta director of the Catholic Church's Human Rights Office told Reuters.

The United Nations agreed to set up the mission — known by its acronym MINUGUA — after Guatemala's warring sides pledged to respect human rights in an accord signed in March as part of peace talks to end 34 years of civil war.

However, violence has since escalated. Local firemen report 13 killings daily in the capital and tortured bodies regularly turn up around the country.

Government officials blame the violence on "delinquents" but others believe headline elements of the security forces may be responsible. "To confuse peo-

ple, political killings are disguised as common crime," Ms. Ochoaeta said.

Guatemala's army has one of the worst human rights reputations.

About 220 foreign human rights observers and 70 policemen and military liaison officers will work for MINUGUA in 13 regional offices in different areas of Guatemala, mission director Leonardo Franco said.

The U.N. mission, which opened its offices last Monday, will take testimony from civilians at offices across the country and will have to deal with some cases which have already drawn international attention.

Summit to plan global war against AIDS

PARIS (AFP) — Political leaders from around the world gather in Paris Thursday for the first international summit to consider global strategy in the war against the killer AIDS pandemic.

Highlights of the one-day summit will include debates on AIDS sufferers' rights, in particular in relation to restrictions imposed by countries such as the United States and Japan on people who have the disease.

A notable absentee at the meeting will be Rwanda, one of the countries worst hit by the AIDS virus HIV.

Government representatives from a total of 42 countries will gather for the summit at the Paris headquarters of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali will also attend, while representative include a number of prime ministers.

A key theme will be how the richer countries of the northern hemisphere can help those of the south by providing resources and education to combat the pandemic.

French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre said the summit was aimed at developing "a greater sense, responsibility and solidarity among developed countries for the countries of the south."

"No continent is now free

of the epidemic, it concerns every country," Mr. Debre said.

"Either because they are cruelly hit by the virus, or because all indications are that they are about to be ravaged, or because they are the main providers of money, they have to give a helping hand to those who are without."

French Social Affairs Minister Simone Veil said one specific concern was the transmission of the HIV virus by blood transfusions, and said action would be taken in this area.

She recently announced that France was upping its contribution to international AIDS organisations from 10 million francs to 100 million francs (about \$2 million to \$20 million) in 1995.

France has the highest incidence of AIDS in the European Union.

Another crucial concern covers the rights of AIDS patients worldwide, who are threatened by intolerance and restrictions.

The United States and Japan have already come under attack for restrictive policies on allowing AIDS sufferers in, while the Russian parliament has also passed a law requiring AIDS tests for all foreigners entering the country.

Ms. Veil said freedom of movement for sufferers would be a key issue at the

summit. Russia will be represented.

Mr. Debre said the summit would provide an opportunity to propose "a certain number of initiatives concerning international cooperation aimed in particular at the most dramatic problems."

The most notable absentee from the summit will be Rwanda, where 60 per cent of the military was infected with the HIV virus before this summer's three-month bloody civil war, according to official figures.

The official explanation for the absence given by Mr. Debre is that Rwanda did not attend preparatory meetings in June for the summit in the midst of its civil war.

Kigali's empty chair at the summit however follows its absence similarly from a Franco-African summit in Biarritz earlier in the month, which was reportedly due to French concern over the new Kigali regime.

Thursday's political event will be preceded Wednesday by a conference of international scientific authorities on how to battle the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

At the end of the day Thursday the summiters will publish a final declaration, which Ms. Veil said would set out "the great principles which bring together the human race."

East, Russia in spotlight at diplomatic marathon

LONDON (R) — The United States and Europe, already cruelly divided over Bosnia, tackle another difficult issue vital to the future security of the continent in a diplomatic marathon that starts this week.

The theme at meetings of NATO, the European Union and at a pan-European security summit is how to draw Moscow's former satellites into the web of Western economic and military security — without leaving Russia isolated and resentful.

The stakes are high. If Russia feels left out by the integration of its former cold war allies into organisations such as NATO and the European Union, cooperation will be difficult on issues like Bosnia and other ethnic flashpoints.

At the same time, Poland, Hungary and others are increasingly frustrated by the failure of Western institutions to give them a timetable for membership.

"In the next few weeks, we have to strike a balance. If we don't get it right, there could be serious consequences,"

said a European diplomat. "Everyone knows Russia cannot join NATO or the EU but we have to make the Russians feel included."

Moreover, the war in Bosnia — testament to the failure of these organisations to bring any real new order to Europe — will cast a long shadow over the meetings which start with a gathering of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels Thursday.

At that meeting, the United States and its allies will discuss what Eastern European states must do to join the alliance, although no candidates will be named and no dates set.

While Washington would like to move faster towards taking on new members, many European allies are reluctant.

Fear of alienating Russia is one of the main reasons.

But there are also concerns about whether expansion to the East would weaken NATO's internal cohesion and whether allies are ready to send troops to fight and die in regions troubled by ethnic tensions. Bosnia has shown

that they are not. NATO ministers meet their counterparts from Eastern Europe, Russia and other former Soviet republics Friday, as the five-month "contact group" of major powers trying to broker an end to the war in Bosnia gathers in Brussels.

Then the action shifts to a summit of the 33-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), in Budapest on Dec. 5-6.

Long dismissed by critics as an ineffectual talking shop, the CSCE has one vital asset — it is the only European security organisation that includes Russia.

The Budapest summit may agree to strengthen the CSCE in a limited way, thus appealing to Moscow. It could reach agreement on Russian military involvement in former Soviet republics and send a peacekeeping force to troubled Nagorno-Karabakh.

But there are serious differences between Russia and others over exactly how all of

this should be done and a failure to reach agreement would leave Moscow out in the cold.

From Budapest, the diplomatic train moves to the German city of Essen for a summit of EU leaders on Dec. 9-10.

Germany, which has pushed hardest for the integration of its neighbours to the east, wants the summit to agree a strategy for bringing them in to the EU — something the union has already promised to do at some time in the future.

But many other states are worried that further quick expansion of the 12-nation bloc, already set to take in Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway next year, will make it unwieldy and unable to make important decisions about Europe's future.

Poland and Hungary, who hope to join the EU by the year 2000, have said they are disappointed that Eastern European states were not invited to take part in the Essen summit.

Perry: Serbs able to overrun Bihac

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday the Bosnian Serbs were in a position to overrun Bihac if they wanted to and that there would be no point in NATO air strikes.

"It seems clear they could occupy it if they decided to do that," Mr. Perry said in an NBC's Meet the Press programme. He said NATO was prepared to use air strikes if asked by the United Nations, but that "even if they would ask for air strikes, air strikes cannot determine the outcome of the ground combat."

U.N. peacekeepers feared Sunday that Serb forces would shut the only escape route from Bihac to trap Bosnian government army troops they have vowed to destroy.

The United Nations reported skirmishing during the night between Muslim-led Bosnian 5th Corps soldiers defending the U.N.-designated "safe area" in northwest Bosnia and Serbs almost encircling it with tanks and artillery.

There was no immediate attempt by Bosnian Serb forces to push deeper into the haven, which comprises the town and its outskirts, but a U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) source in Sarajevo said:

"We think the Serbs will try to close the gap to the north, certainly squeeze in closer if not close it altogether."

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) commanders have left one exit road open to allow Muslim civilians and refugees in Bihac a means to flee the fighting.

If it is closed, the 300 to 400 5th Corps soldiers left in Bihac will be at the mercy of BSA forces under orders from Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to wipe them out.

Closure of the road would also prevent the evacuation of an estimated 60,000 non-combatants from the town, as demanded by Bosnian officials.

U.N. officials doubted in any case whether an operation on such a scale was possible.

"It would be extremely difficult to implement," one said. "It's very hard to see how they could be moved at this stage and even if they could, how could they be sheltered and fed elsewhere."

Bihac is on the verge of becoming the first of the six U.N.-protected Muslim safe havens in Bosnia to fall to the Serbs.

In eastern Bosnia, the BSA was content to surround Muslim settlements like Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa and leave the United Nations with the responsibility of feeding them.

UNPROFOR Commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose said: "militarily speaking, it's quite obvious to me that if the BSA wishes



Doctors giving first aid to a man who was wounded by shrapnel from an anti-aircraft gun in Sarajevo. At least one

man was wounded as shooting forced pedestrians once again to run for their lives (AFP photo)



Sarajevans run for their lives as sniping and anti-aircraft gun firing slammed into the Bosnian capital (AFP photo)

to occupy areas within the Bihac U.N.-designated safe area they could do that.

"I think there is fighting going on there right at the moment. Which way it goes I really can't predict."

NATO admitted that its warplanes were unable to help the town's defence with air strikes because of the strength of surrounding BSA anti-aircraft missile systems.

The U.N. Security Council demanded Saturday that the Serbs withdraw but the 23,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Bosnia and NATO have effectively been relegated to a helpless spectator role.

Moscow signalled its misgivings over the U.N. activities as Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev pressed Serbia's leader Slobodan Milosevic to intervene with the Bosnian Serbs.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Mr. Kozyrev wrote to the U.N. secretary-general saying the world body's job was "not in 'forcing' the sides towards peace, but in backing a peaceful political settlement."

The Russian government is particularly opposed to the use of NATO air power after committing itself as the Serbs' spokesman in international peace efforts.

Although the centre of Bihac was quiet Sunday morning, U.N. spokesman Michael Williams said "the position is increasingly untenable as (Serb attackers) tighten their grip on the south and west of the city."

He quoted a U.N. report as saying: "All villages to the south have been overrun and burnt with a view to preventing the return of their population. There are over 2,000

patients in Bihac Hospital (which normally has beds for 700)."

The report said the BSA and its Serb allies from the rebel Krajina enclave in neighbouring Croatia made "big advances up to and into the town" Saturday.

The Croatian Serb involvement, which violated an international border and was specifically condemned by the Security Council, seemed to have grown, it added.

The government's 5th Corps said Sunday Serbs attacked Bihac with howitzers, anti-aircraft cannon, mortars and tanks in heavy fighting just one kilometre from the overcrowded town hospital.

Spokesman Sandi Zulic, speaking to Reuters in Zagreb by telephone, said there was hand-to-hand fighting near the hospital. Defence lines were holding but there was heavy damage and casualties.

"The heaviest of today's fighting is just under way... their tanks are about one kilometre from the hospital, so the hospital is practically on the very first front line," Mr. Zulic said.

A U.N. relief worker who visited the hospital earlier Sunday confirmed that fighting was very close, perhaps even closer than one km to the "very exposed" building, with smoke drifting across the lines and loud explosions audible.

Mr. Zulic said the defence

lines did not move this morning but "the destruction is terrible."

"Lots of people have fled into town ahead of the Serb troops. The heaviest attacks are coming from the south and south-west... there is hand-to-hand fighting near the hospital."

Meanwhile, Serb forces took about 150 British and Dutch peacekeepers hostage in eastern Bosnia Saturday after having detained another 250 U.N. soldiers around Sarajevo earlier in the week, the United Nations said Sunday.

"The Serbs blocked four UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) convoys that had received clearance through their territory," said Major

Koos Sol, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo. "They're being detained or held hostage, if you will. We are in contact with Serb authorities trying to clarify the situation."

Maj. Sol said a convoy carrying 43 British soldiers out of Gorazde had been stopped in Serb-held Ustipirca. A convoy of British military engineers headed into Gorazde is being held by Serbs in Rogatica.

Two Dutch convoys were also involved. One, carrying 70 Dutch troops out of the government enclave of Srebrenica on route to the Croatian capital Zagreb and Zadar, the United Nations said Sunday.

"We don't know where they are and they have dropped out of communication," said Maj. Sol.

Major set to win key Euro-vote

LONDON (R) — Rebels from Britain's ruling Conservatives admitted defeat Sunday in a showdown with Prime Minister John Major over Europe and were warned it would be a "grave mistake" to challenge his leadership.

Press reports that disaffected ex-Finance Minister Norman Lamont was ready to try to oust Mr. Major this week added to the woes of a deeply unpopular prime minister, but his cabinet colleagues rallied round.

"I'm quite sure there won't be a challenge to the prime minister," Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard told BBC Television. "It would be a grave mistake for anyone to play any part in such a venture."

"I'm sure it's obvious to (Lamont) he would cut an absolutely ridiculous figure if he did anything of the kind."

But the Sunday Telegraph confidently led with a story that Mr. Lamont, sacked by Mr. Major 18 months ago, would act as standard-bearer for "Euro-sceptic" Conservative members of parliament bitter at strong-arm tactics used to blunt their rebellion.

Mr. Major told the rebels last week that the government would resign and force an early general election if they helped to sink a key bill

Monday that would increase British funding to the European Union. The government has a slender 14-seat majority in parliament.

The ultimatum, backed by the whole cabinet in a bid to convince the rebels they could not use the vote to replace Mr. Major, appears to have worked.

"I don't think there will be enough (of us) to make the government fall," outspoken Euro-rebel Bill Cash told BBC Television.

"We'll get our majority tomorrow night," Mr. Howard said. Cabinet colleague John Redwood, a rightwinger with anti-European sympathies, added:

"The government will win. Conservative MPs (members of parliament) will not want to vote no in a confidence vote on their government."

Conservative Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley upped the stakes Saturday, warning rebels they faced being effectively shut out of the party in parliament — jeopardising their right to vote in a leadership challenge — if they wrecked the bill.

Under party rules the rebels have until Wednesday — the day after the government's annual budget is revealed — to collect 34 signatures to challenge Mr. Major's leadership.

Rebel MP John Carlisle called publicly for a challenge.

"Many of us feel something has to be done," he told GMTV television. "We can't have one of the greatest parties in the world staggering from one crisis to another."

The Sunday Telegraph said a challenge by Mr. Lamont would be intended to pave the way for Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine to make a serious leadership bid.

Mr. Major, who took over from "iron lady" Margaret Thatcher in just such a party coup in 1990, has often been criticised for weak leadership, and has been dogged by a series of sex and financial scandals involving his colleagues.

After winning the last general election in 1992, he survived a critical test when he forced the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on closer European ties last year despite Euro-sceptic revolt.

He has three years before he must call another election.

The Conservatives know that if the government fell now they would probably lose an election. Opinion polls give the main opposition Labour Party until its young new leader Tony Blair a lead of more than 30 percentage points.

Berlusconi seeks vital deals in fight to survive

ROME (Agencies) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, battling to hold on to power despite a corruption inquiry, will seek to cut crucial deals with coalition partners and trades unions in the next few days.

The billionaire businessman won some valuable breathing space over the weekend when his questioning by Milan magistrates over corruption allegations was postponed.

The session did not take place because Mr. Berlusconi's lawyer Giuseppe De Luca was unwell. A new date has not been fixed but newspapers said Mr. Berlusconi could meet the magistrates as early as Monday.

Mr. Berlusconi, elected in March on promises to clean up politics, was left reeling last Tuesday when investigators said he was under inquiry over bribes his Fininvest business empire is alleged to have paid tax inspectors.

The inquiry left the media magnate battling for his political life. He has denied any wrongdoing and embarked on what one newspaper has termed a "smile offensive" to win over the hearts and minds of ordinary Italians.

The tactic seems to be paying dividends with a weekend poll showing that 64 per cent of Italians believed

that the Berlusconi government should stay on.

Some 1,000 Berlusconi backers staged a march in the northern Italian city of Turin Sunday, collecting signatures pledging solidarity with the prime minister.

More than 300 Berlusconi loyalists demonstrated Saturday outside the offices of Milan's "mani pulite" (clean hands) elite pool of prosecutors.

The prime minister must now win the backing of coalition partners at a crucial cabinet session Tuesday and then seek a compromise with unions Wednesday to avert an eight-hour general strike planned for Dec. 2.

Mr. Berlusconi plans to use Tuesday's cabinet meeting to try to rally his shaky six-month-old coalition — and primarily the combative Northern League party — around a programme for government over the coming months.

The League is expected to give Mr. Berlusconi only conditional backing and agree to support him until the unpopular 1995 budget is approved by parliament. It is then expected to seek a thorough review of the alliance.

Parliament must by law approve the budget for next year by Dec. 31, 1994.

"We have to see if this government can do more and

do better. This is the sense of the review we have requested once the budget is approved," the League's Interior Minister Roberto Maroni told weekly magazine Il Mondo Economico.

Northern League leader Umberto Bossi met President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro Saturday and was reported to have agreed to continue to back the government until the budget was approved.

Mr. Berlusconi's aides say the meeting with unions Wednesday should yield a compromise deal on the budget to prevent Friday's general strike.

Success at the meeting could smooth the budget's passage through the Senate (upper house), where the government is short of an absolute majority.

Mr. Berlusconi, weakened by the corruption inquiry, last week sought to reach an accord with the unions which would strip contentious pensions reform out of the budget bill.

Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini, in an interview with daily La Stampa published Sunday, confirmed the government was willing to compromise but stressed it would stick to its target of cutting the state deficit by \$30 billion next year.

Continuing political turmoil and fears the budget could be watered down drove the Italian lira to record historical lows against the German mark Friday and the government will have an anxious eye on the financial markets this week.

"Of course I'm worried because I think that the exchange rate is unjustified from an economic point of view but largely reflects uncertainties about the future," Mr. Dini said.

Meanwhile, the leader of Italy's opposition Popular Party said Sunday his PPI could one day merge with the ruling Forza Italia of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to form a large secular party.

Rocco Buttiglione, the national secretary of the centrist party which has given former Christian Democrats a new political home, was reacting in the dailies Corriere Della Sera and Repubblica to reports that he had met Saturday with Forza Italia spokesman Antonio Tajani.

The talks with Mr. Tajani focused on a hypothetical future merger with Forza Italia in a large secular party and possible alliances between the PPI, Forza Italia and the federalist Northern League, a member of Mr. Berlusconi's rightist government, in regional elections early next year, Mr. Buttiglione said.

Norway starts voting in cliffhanger EU referendum

OSLO (R) — Norwegians began voting Sunday on whether their country should join the European Union (EU) in a two-day referendum that has turned into a cliffhanger.

Pollsters agreed the outcome was an open question because the "yes to EU" lobby has rallied in the last week, undermining the comfortable lead held for months by the "no" camp.

"The race is not over," said Svein Loevasas of the polling group Scan-Fact.

A sparsely populated Scandinavian country of 4.3 million, Norway has a tradition of voting for two days in elections, but it is up to communities to decide for themselves.

The referendum is non-binding but the Labour Party minority government has said it will accept the outcome even if it is a "no", but the anti-EU opposition has threatened to block ratification of a narrow "yes" vote in parliament.

Voting was taking place in 227 of the country's 435 communities from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. (noon to 1700 GMT). It will spread to all communities Monday and the result will be known late on Monday or, if the race is very close, early Tuesday.

In a final opinion institute poll for the daily Aftenposten Sunday, the "yes" lobby advanced two percentage points to 43 per cent and the "no" side slipped one point to 47. The undecided dropped one point to 10 per cent.

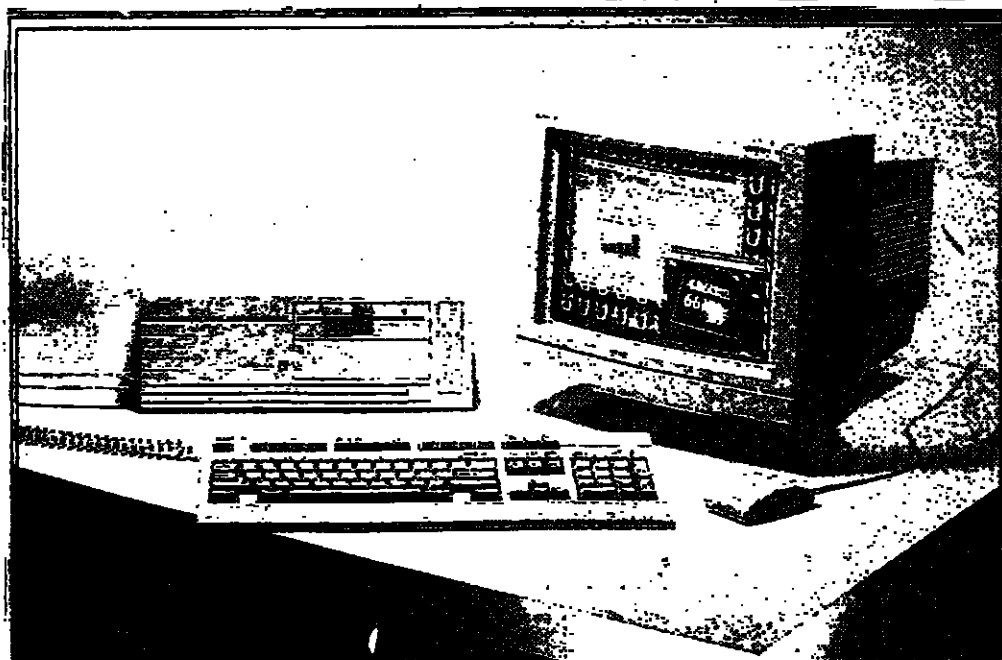
An MMI poll commissioned by the daily Dagbladet showed that the "no" side had slipped two percentage points to 48 from Saturday while the "yes" lobby had increased three points to 41 per cent. The "don't know" shrunk one point to 11 per cent.

Both polls showed a nearly identical majority for EU opponents if the undecided were not taken into account.

Pollsters believed turnout among the 3.2 million electorate would be high, probably between 80 and 85 per cent, and that the "yes" side would benefit most from a high turnout.

When Norway rejected membership of the then European Economic Community by a 53.5-46.5 per cent margin in 1972, turnout was 79.1 per cent.

"Several polls in the last few days have confirmed there is a certain movement among voters towards the 'yes' position," Aftenposten said.



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Clash without cause

LEBANESE PRESIDENT Elias Hrawi has a right to warn the Palestinian factions at 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp to stop their internecine fighting or face an immediate intervention by the Lebanese army. The Palestinian refugees that make Lebanon their temporary home till their plight is resolved must not abuse the hospitality of the Arab host country by threatening once again its security and stability, especially when there is no reason to fight in the first place. The affected sprawling refugees camp houses about 60,000 Palestinians on the outskirts of Sidon, a major Lebanese city only 40 kilometres south of Beirut. It does not take much imagination to realise that the infighting at 'Ain Al Hilweh shantytown could spill over to other parts of the country unless checked and checked effectively and quickly.

Lebanon has been nursing a return to normality after more than 15 years of bloodshed in which various Palestinian militant groups also took an active part at one stage or another. The country can ill-afford a return to the days of armed conflict and destruction. Granted the cause of the recent eruption of bloody clashes between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat loyalists and his foes is attributed to the peace process between the PLO and Israel. We have seen a similar outburst of violence in Gaza City only two weeks ago that took the lives of scores of Palestinians and injured hundreds. The death toll from the 'Ain Al Hilweh fighting is estimated to have reached more than ten with tens of others gravely injured. With the Palestinian people deeply divided over the Oslo and Cairo accords struck between Arafat's Fateh group and Israel, the recurrence of violence between the opposing factions would continue to haunt not only the autonomous Palestinian areas but also the neighbouring Arab countries that still play host to hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees.

The Lebanese warning on the recent clashes is therefore a timely word of caution that should spur the Palestinians to settle their differences by democratic means no matter where they are. Otherwise the Palestinian people would continue to be an easy prey for their enemies and subject to manipulation when they least need it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Arab Gulf states are ready for reconciliation with Jordan, after the end of the storm raised over the Gulf crisis, the time has come for the Jordanian government to demand that the rights of the Jordanian citizens who have lost their property in Kuwait be restored, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in *Al Dussour* Sunday. A great deal has been said about the compensation for the returning expatriates but nothing has been said about those Jordanians who lost everything and all their savings that were invested in private businesses, noted the writer. He said that these people are not allowed to go back to Kuwait to claim their property and their rights, neither are they backed by the Jordanian government's efforts to help them regain their lawful rights. The only fault they had for losing their property was that they were not Kuwaitis but holders of Jordanian passports, added the writer. He said that the government ought to defend the expatriates' bid as they had never been involved in any political activity against the Kuwaiti government.

ARAFAT HIAZI, a columnist in *Sawt Al Shabab* daily, said that it has been customary for the Zionists to launch repeated campaigns against Islam and Muslims, accusing them of being terrorists, so that the Western nations can give Israel more backing in its drive to consolidate its occupation of Palestine. The writer said that Israel has lately been trying to link resistance activity conducted by Hamas to Iran, accusing Tehran of encouraging and helping the Islamists, a ploy intended to win Western support against Muslims because Western nations are oriented against the Iranian regime. The Israelis are also trying to cover up for their atrocities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly for the usurpation of the holy Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron where settlers massacred scores of Arabs and continue to do so, said the writer. He said the rulers of occupied Hebron at present are groups of Jewish terrorist settlers roaming the streets and killing children in cold blood. It is these Jewish settlers and the Zionist leaders who encourage their actions that are the real terrorists who commit crime against humanity, said the writer.

Human Rights File

By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

Peace treaty, potential GATT membership bode well for human rights in Jordan

AS I see it, the ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and the application for membership in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) bode well for human rights in Jordan. The first sign of this positive development at the Israeli-Jordanian level is the beginning of commercial dealings between the two countries, which stands to improve the lot for Jordanians not only in terms of revenues but also enhancing the quality of the food we eat.

The first shipment of tomatoes to Israel was tested very carefully by Israel for not only outward appearance but also for the amounts of pesticide and insecticide residues. That means that Jordanian farmers would now have an added incentive to clean up their agricultural productions if they expect to export their produce to neighbouring Israel. The country's agricultural production has been cursed by governmental lack of adequate supervision of health factors and at the end, the "right to life" of Jordanians has suffered dearly. According to persistent medical reports, there is an upsurge in cancer cases in the Kingdom due to environmental considerations, on top of which there is contaminated foodstuff, especially agricultural produce grown locally. Now this state of affairs is poised to change as a first tangible dividend of the peace process. One can be sure that the Israeli authorities will be a bit more diligent than our authorities when it comes to safeguarding the health of their people and would not allow in foodstuff, even from "friendly" Jordan, without proper screening. This is very good news for Jordanians who had to endure much and eat their country's vegetables and fruits without sufficient testing for carcinogenic elements till this point in time. I suspect that this unfortunate situation will soon change to the better, thanks to trade and commerce with

Israel. All of us who are still uneasy with the peace treaty with Israel must at least rejoice that peace with Israel has a clearcut human rights dividend since the vegetables and fruits that we will be eating henceforth will be much safer for our health and the health of our families.

There is also another big bonus for human rights in Jordan when the Kingdom becomes a state party to GATT. One of the basic tenets of this global accord is to lower customs duties to a bare minimum. This means that Jordanians will now have the opportunity to purchase improved, locally-manufactured products at lower prices since competition from outside can be expected to improve their quality and safety standards.

It has been proven time and again that only competition is the route for improved production and as long as our infant industries are protected by high customs, they will continue to be lax in safety standards and quality control. In other words, here and again we see the promotion and protection of human rights of Jordanians assured by economic factors, thanks to GATT and its principles. Of course, the *ad litteram* application of GATT's guidelines would precipitate economic hardships for some of our industries and even cause casualties among their rank. But this is a small price to pay in the long run, especially if we all regard human rights as a national cause to be attained even if there is a price tag to it.

As a champion of human rights at the international level I am more than happy to see us signing and ratifying the peace treaty with Israel and striving diligently to become a faithful member of GATT, for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Why knock conciliation if it happens to work?

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — Some people used to argue that the best hope for saving the world was to get more women into positions of political power. The thought was that women, being naturally inclined to cooperation and peace-making, would be less likely than men to lead us needlessly into war.

I have not heard the argument recently. Maybe that is because war seems a less planet-threatening prospect since the demise of the Soviet Union. Maybe it is because the women who did rise to political power — Indira Gandhi, Golda Meir, Margaret Thatcher — were not noticeably less bellicose than the men who preceded and followed them. Or maybe it is that women have started acting more like men — or, at any rate, think they should.

You will remember the old argument. Little girls (perhaps harking back to the days when women were keepers of home and hearth) play open-ended, cooperative games. Boys (responding to the hunter's necessity to capture and kill?) play games with clear-cut winners and losers.

Out of this combination of nature and nurture, the argument went, came cooperative, nurturing women and competitive, macho men.

This sexual division, of course, was never absolute. Both men and women have been competitive as well as cooperative. But it may be fair to say that the culture that has always urged men towards the aggressive side is

now doing the same with women. Cooperation and compromise have come to be seen as weakness, in women as in men.

The women who command respect in the United States these days are the tough-talking take-no-prisoners types: Patricia Ireland, Phyllis Schlafly, Maxine Waters or Ann Richards.

Are we Americans better off for this culture shift? I don't think so.

"Instead of tempting women and girls to the macho way of dealing, we need to teach men and boys the usefulness of cooperation and compromise. Our tendency towards needless warfare, ineffectual and dangerous as foreign policy, is disastrous on the domestic front."

Look at Haiti: Its political situation is relatively stable, its people are reasonably hopeful, its elected president is back in power, and America's problem with Haitian refugees is on the way to resolution. None of this means that democracy has been "restored" in that long-suffering place, but it does mean that Haiti now has a chance at political and economic salvation.

And how did that chance come about? Partly, no doubt, as a result of President Bill Clinton's threat to launch a military invasion, but also as a result of the negotiations led by former President Jim-

my Carter that had the effect of making the invasion unnecessary.

To many Americans, Mr. Carter's conciliatory approach seemed weak. Not only did he refrain from branding Lieutenant General Raoul Cédras and his colleagues as thugs and savages, he expressed his unhappiness, even shame, over aspects of United States policy. It was not what you might

define the problem in terms of an enemy and then to drive the enemy to the wall. Too many of us are busy ourselves searching out and identifying enemies to be brought down.

On television — our present-day marketplace of ideas — political or ideological opponents are more concerned to defeat one another, to believe that the rules require them to try to defeat one another, than to seek points of agreement that could move the society forward.

This "little boys' way" of playing seems to have become everybody's way of playing. Indeed, it seems the reasonable way to play the game — until it dawns on you that it doesn't work. The people who are open to cooperation and community building are the ones who create positive change. We keep scouring the terrain for enemies, when what we need is to remind ourselves, as someone wittier than I put it, that the problem is the problem.

Instead of tempting women and girls to the macho way of dealing, we need to teach men and boys the usefulness of cooperation and compromise. Our tendency towards needless warfare, ineffectual and dangerous as foreign policy, is disastrous on the domestic front. It thwarts the best efforts of those who would try to move us towards community. Isn't it time to try a different game?

His (so far) successful approach stands out in my mind because it is so rare. The tendency these days is to

The Washington Post

Idols fall as Israel seeks its identity

By Andy Goldberg

Even Israel's "Joan of Arc" as the country's best-known heroine is known, cannot escape as a wave of revisionism forces this country to reconsider its heroic self-image.

Those responsible are the "new historians." Their arguments lie behind a television drama offering a shocking new interpretation of an episode of the World War II enshrined in the national consciousness. The textbook version says that Hannah Senesh, a poet who parachuted into Nazi-occupied Hungary to rescue Jews but was captured by the Germans, kept silent under torture before being killed. The programme, however, alleges she revealed her comrades' names.

The offending lines were removed before the programme was screened, but not before the press found out. The result was more soul-searching over official history, myth and reality.

Beliefs at the heart of Israel's identity are for the first time being questioned.

Even David Ben-Gurion, the country's founding father once viewed as a demi-god, is being described as a wily political operator who turned a blind eye to Israeli atrocities and encouraged deportations of Palestinians. The "reprisal raids" he ordered into Arab territory were often justified, the latest accounts say, and scuppered chances for peace with moderate Arab politicians.

"What we learned in the past was lies, half-truths and omissions," said Benny Morris, a leading "historian." "All our history was in fact propaganda."

Mr. Morris and others have exploded the popular portrayal of Israel as a dove surrounded by hawks. Using defence ministry documents, they show that Israeli leaders often rejected peace overtures. They chronicle massacres, and show that Arab villagers suffered countless acts of looting and rape by Israeli forces.

Paradoxically, right-wing politicians sometimes embrace the new historiography, arguing that the tough measures practised in the

past constitute the true Zionism, now diluted by bleeding-heart leaders who have strayed from the path set by Ben-Gurion.

Revisionism is traumatic for a society brought up to believe in the purity of its origins. Many are outraged: "If the rising tide of self-doubt does not die down, we shall lack the conviction to resist dangers to our very existence," said Aharon Megged, the novelist.

Elements of revisionism are creeping into the textbooks, and are credited with changing Israel's perceptions of Palestinians and Arabs. The shift from burning enmity to grudging conciliation was vital in forging the recent breakthrough in the peace process.

Even the Holocaust is being reassessed, as experts decry the politicisation of the Jewish people's greatest tragedy. A recent book by Tom Segev, a columnist, criticised the Holocaust lesson drummed into Israeli youth — the need for a strong Israel to fight an anti-semitic world.

"The Holocaust should be used for humanistic, not

nationalist lessons — to teach us to fight for democracy, protect human rights, resist racism, and if you are a soldier, to resist illegal orders," he said.

The new thinking extends into every sphere. Ora Namir, the welfare minister, recently questioned Israel's duty to provide shelter to every Jew, when so many came to Israel merely to milk the country's social benefits. This appeared to question Israel's very raison d'être as an open haven for all Jews in the world.

Even the holiest of totems, the army, is being affected by new thinking. Formerly, reports of its lack of discipline, chaotic structure and fatal training accidents would have remained firmly shut in the censor's drawer. Now they are discussed openly.

"When I joined the unit I was told to make sacrifices for the nation," said a recently demobbed soldier. "By the time I left the message was different: make the effort for your personal development."

The Sunday Times



The ebbing powers of a great power

By G.H. Jansen

THE THIRD World can have (or can at least consider having) a collective sigh of relief because the spectre of the one world power, the U.S., which seemed to loom over them as recently as a year ago, is dissipating if not quite "like snow upon the desert's face," then like mist on a sunny morning. And that because there have been all too many examples in the recent past where the U.S. wanted some country, even a small, weak country, to do something and that country has told the U.S. to "get lost," or words to that effect, and the small country has not been demolished by a Jovian thunderbolt.

In these cases of successful defiance it is not that the U.S. no longer has the ability to deliver Jovian thunderbolts, because it has them and is constantly improving its ability to deliver more devastating blows more accurately and from greater distances, but the one world power seems to have lost the will to be assertive and/or punitive. In the present case involving the U.S., the truth of the Napoleonic dictum, which cannot be repeated too often — that in war the spirit is to the material as three to one — is being proven once again.

The U.S. remains a great power but lacks the heart, the will, the guts to behave like a great power. As when Somali tribesmen ran the Americans out of their country or as when a small band of Haitian ragamuffins saw off an American man-of-war in the harbour of Port-au-Prince. They were passing incidents which did not attract much attention. But much noticed and reported around the world was the still more recent refusal of Thailand, an notoriously corrupt and even more notoriously subservient country, to allow the U.S. to pre-position arms and equipment on Thai territory but rather on off-shore navy ships in the Gulf of Thailand. If the Thais can say "no" to the U.S., then everyone can say "no."

The Thais used the well-worn excuse that if they said "yes" it would be their neighbours who might object even though there was only one such neighbour — the obnoxious Mahatir Mohamad of Malaysia, who seems to enjoy cocking a snook at all and sundry.

Arguing with the Thais to try and get them to change their mind, with no success, the U.S. said the same would not necessarily be good in central Asia but in other parts of the world, like the Middle East. Which is an odd reason because only after the recent Iraq scare in Kuwait the Gulf states such as a thoroughly frightened Kuwait and Qatar and the UAE finally agreed to allow U.S. prepositioning of a brigade each on their territory. But perhaps because the U.S. feels that the volatile Arabs are unreliable and could change position overnight — which is a fact — Washington would like to have other bases elsewhere but not too far away. But the centrepiece of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, cannot yet approve of a U.S. presence because of the growing strength of an Islamist opposition, which counts for more with the Saudi government than the approval or disapproval of the U.S.

Thailand is not the only corrupt, subservient Southeast Asian country to say "no" to Uncle Sam. The Philippines have refused to extend the lease on the very large air and naval American bases on its territory, which had been there for decades, and this could be one reason why the U.S. tried asking Thailand only for off-shore basing.

And it is not only by friends, and not only on bases, that the U.S. has been rebuffed. North Korea refused to be bullied into allowing inspection of its nuclear facilities, and stood out so stoutly that when it did partially yield, it was able to strike a hard bargain so that the U.S. donated two late-model reactors to the recalcitrant.

Pakistan, of course, has for many years refused to fall in with American wishes on its nuclear programme. So has India.

But these last-mentioned refusals were made before the end of the cold war and were then much easier to make because the USSR was then available as a possible counterweight. Saying "no" now to the U.S. requires much more courage and yet even countries like Thailand have said "no" and have got away with it.

How come? Perhaps because of the general belief that the U.S. is not willing or able to take punitive action against friendly countries like Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan or India.

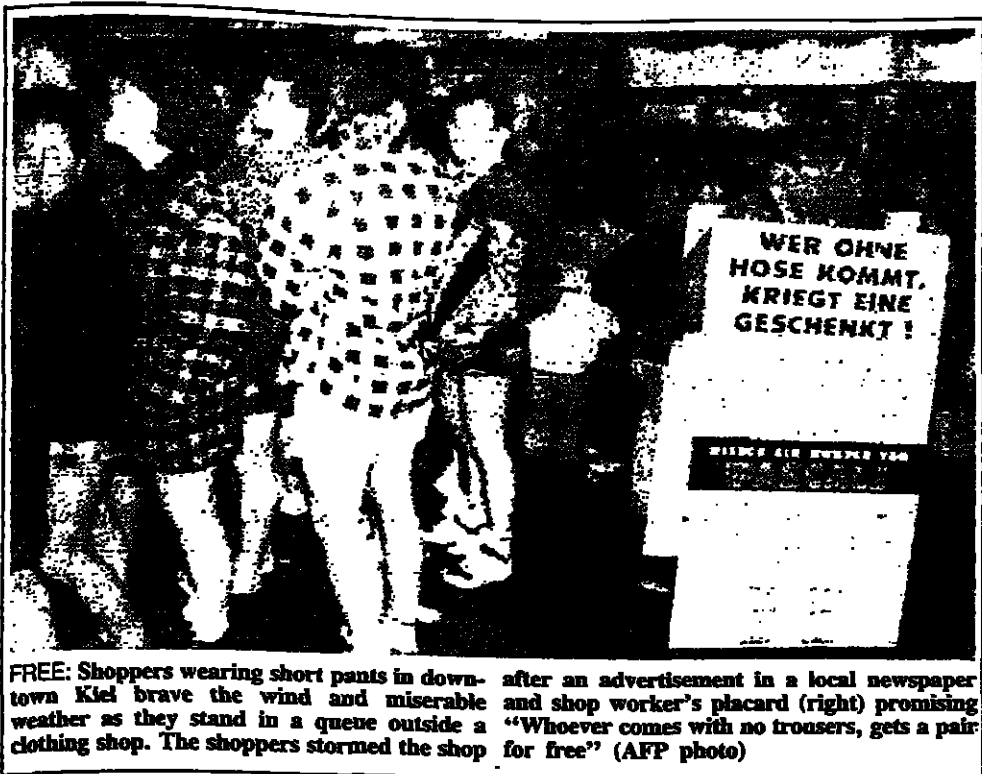
"In these cases of successful defiance it is not that the U.S. no longer has the ability to deliver Jovian thunderbolts, because it has them and is constantly improving its ability to deliver more devastating blows more accurately and from greater distances..."

Of course, the U.S. has taken punitive action (on a small scale and ineffectually) against Libya and (on a large scale and quite effectively in terms of destruction) against Iraq. But then the Libyans and Iraqis are Muslim Arabs and, what is worse, are enemies of Israel, the strategic ally and spoiled child of the U.S., which through the American Zionist lobby can powerfully influence the U.S. media and Congress. "Arab-bashing" or "Muslim-bashing" can always be made popular in the U.S. because Arabs and Muslims have been demonised by the U.S. media while "India-bashing" would be very difficult and even impossible because it has not yet been demonised by the U.S. media.

Even though the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a persistent no-sayer its mullah regime has not yet been completely demonised though it is open to quick and easy demonisation at any time.

It has now become even easier for other states to say no to the U.S. because the new Republican Party — dominated Congress is isolationist and does not want the U.S. to be the "one world power." For the next two years, at least, the rest of the world will have to deal with a U.S. led, more or less, by a nice, decent, liberal wimpish president and a hapless secretary of state with a firm-willed, totally isolationist Jesse Helms breathing down the back of their necks from the Senate.

So Third World countries today will not even need to say "Yankee go home" because that is what the Yankies will be doing on their own anyway, whether it is in the American national interest to do so or not. And they can say it without worrying about whether they will need U.S. protection from any other threat, now that the big threat of the USSR has disappeared. It would be an interesting exercise to work out which countries in the world today need protection and against whom and what.



FREE: Shoppers wearing short pants in downtown Kiel brave the wind and miserable weather as they stand in a queue outside a clothing shop. The shoppers stormed the shop after an advertisement in a local newspaper and shop worker's placard (right) promising "Whoever comes with no trousers, gets a pair for free" (AFP photo)

Jordan, Israel announce full ties

(Continued from page 1)

sador, a charge d'affaires, a press relations officer and spokesman, a consul, a commercial attaché and an agricultural attaché who would also handle questions related to water sharing, Agence France Presse reported from occupied Jerusalem. The diplomats will be supported by administrative staff.

In addition to agreeing to returning Jordanian territory to Israel, the two governments are expected to send formal nominations of ambassadors to each other in the next 48 hours. A group of Jordanian schoolchildren would go to Israel on Monday to attend celebrations in Haifa, becoming the first group of Jordanians to formally enter Israel since Nov. 13, when the two countries opened the way for visits, Reuters quoted border officials as saying.

Israel may discuss status

(Continued from page 1)

a brainstorming session. Six months of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho has shown both sides that leaving a complicated web of overlapping responsibilities between Palestinian police, the Israeli army and settlers is an explosive mix.

With just 16 settlements and 4,000 settlers, the arrangements in the Gaza Strip appear relatively simple when compared to over 120,000 settlers in 128 towns living among over 1.2 million Palestinians on the West Bank, creating the bypass roads alone would likely take both months of negotiations and even more time to carry out at considerable expense.

But there is a growing feeling on both sides that they are in a race against time. Palestinians are disenchanted with the lack of change in their lives, whereas Israelis are questioning whether the mounting toll is worth giving up land that makes them feel secure.

Mr. Arafat has complained that the peace process was unfolding "very slowly" because of delays in extending autonomy to the West Bank

Kingdom. The peace treaty calls for the establishment of full diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in one month after the exchange of the documents of ratification of the peace treaty.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the treaty on Nov. 10 during the first visit the King paid to Israel.

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Reports from Israel said that candidates under consideration by the Israeli government as its ambassador to Jordan included career diplomat Eitan Ben Tzur (said to be favoured by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres), foreign ministry deputy director Yossi Gal, who served as Dr. Muasher's counterpart during the peace negotiations, and Ephraim Halevy, deputy head of the Israeli secret service Mossad, who is reportedly favoured by Prime Minister Rabin.

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Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

police reacted swiftly by detaining Hamas activists, at least temporarily.

At present, four Hamas activists remain in Palestinian jails, down from scores held in October after the group kidnapped an Israeli soldier. "If the Palestinian Authority succeeds in dismantling the settlements through peaceful means, fine," Mr. Faluji said.

"But, if they fail the only alternative will be the armed method," he said while specifying, "Hamas was not promising an end to its attacks, but calls on the authority to dismantle the settlements."

Mr. Arafat's troubles with the group exploded on Nov. 18 when Palestinian police clashed with Hamas supporters in Gaza City.

Arab-Israelis who acted as mediators later succeeded in negotiating a truce between the PNA and Hamas, which endured the rally. "We're very pleased with it," said Marwan Kanafani, Mr. Arafat's spokesman. "Everybody who participated acted very responsibly."

The idea was to have law and order, we did not want to provoke anyone," he said.

Corruption allegation latest woe for Berlusconi

By Keith Weir
Reuters

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, swept to power in the warmth of last spring, is facing a bleak autumn battle for survival.

Those sunny March days when the media magnate made a triumphant entry into politics are but a distant memory as he stumbles from crisis to crisis in the November gloom.

This has not been a good week for Mr. Berlusconi.

His Forza Italia party hammered in weekend local polls, the prime minister awoke on Tuesday to find the respected Corriere della Sera newspaper reporting that Milan magistrates had taken the first steps in a possible corruption probe against him.

To increase his embarrassment, the report coincided with the prime minister hosting a United Nations conference on international crime in the southern Italian city of

Naples. "I am serene because, as I have said many times in the past, I am absolutely sure I have not committed any offence," Mr. Berlusconi told reporters in Naples.

He has other problems to disturb his peace of mind.

Fate dealt the embattled prime minister a further blow in the form of floods two weeks ago in northern Italy in which at least 64 people died. The authorities have come under fire for their alleged slow response as the tragedy unfolded.

Hundreds of thousands of Italians have taken to the streets to protest against a government austerity budget that aims to slash the huge state deficit by \$30 billion in 1995.

The Lower House of Parliament approved the budget on Monday but it now faces possible ambush in the senate (upper house) where the government does not have an absolute majority.

Mr. Berlusconi has staked much of his credibility with



Silvio Berlusconi

financial markets on getting the budget through parliament unscathed by its Dec. 31 deadline.

In such circumstances he needs all the friends he can get but his coalition, in which the federalist Northern League and hard-right National Alliance are Forza Italia's main partners, is riven by infighting.

Northern League leader Umberto Bossi has been such a persistent Berlusconi critic that some have dubbed him

"the leader of the opposition."

National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini has been loyal personified but his assured performances have marked him out as a potential rival.

Sunday's local polls, in which 2.6 million Italians voted, saw support for Forza Italia collapse to below 10 per cent while the National Alliance rose and support for the league held up.

Mr. Berlusconi discounted the outcome but commentators said it limited his margin for manoeuvre in dealing with his partners.

"If the electors... reflect the national mood, Berlusconi cannot do without Bossi in the north and is dancing to Fini's tune in the south," the daily La Repubblica wrote.

Mr. Berlusconi, 58, swept to power in general elections last March just two months after entering politics.

In the previous decade the ever-smiling, billionaire had earned fame for building his Fininvest company into a \$7

billion a year empire spanning television to supermarkets.

His image as a winner at home and abroad was confirmed by his ownership of the AC Milan soccer club, current European and Italian champions.

Mr. Berlusconi, who took office in May, has come under fire from the opposition for his alleged attempts to control the media and for ongoing rows with popular anti-graft magistrates. But the budget is the issue which has most upset ordinary people.

The prime minister promised to create a million jobs as he campaigned for general elections with a "feel good" message which had Italians dreaming of a new economic miracle.

They have woken up to find Mr. Berlusconi, fighting to rein in runaway budget deficits inherited from past governments, taking the knife to one of the world's most generous pension systems.

Former invaders may turn peacekeepers in Angola

By David Tucker
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — More than four years after South Africa withdrew its last troops from Angola, the United Nations wants them back — as peacekeepers rather than invaders.

Black-ruled South Africa has problems of its own and is reluctant to get deeply mired in peacekeeping operations that will inevitably lead to casualties, political and military analysts said on Monday.

"They would not want a repeat of what happened to the Americans in Somalia," said Deon Fourie, professor of strategic studies at the University of South Africa.

"That would not be good news for the government... It would be very hesitant about sending anybody where casualties are inevitable," he told Reuters.

South Africa Deputy President Thabo Mbeki told reporters on his return from Lusaka, where he attended Sunday's signing of an accord by the Luanda government and UNITA rebels to end 19 years of civil war in Angola, that it would be a condition of the operation that it helped Angolans rather than coerced them.

"The secretary-general of the United Nations has already requested Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to contribute to... the body of United Nations people who would participate in the process of implementing that agreement," he said.

Mr. Mbeki did not say whether the U.N. had asked for military or civilian backup but Zimbabwean and Zambian government officials say there is no doubt the U.N. wants troops.

Dr. Fourie said if South Africa agreed to send any they would probably be military signalers and medics, with air force support.

"I cannot see combat troops going in... They are needed here to handle violence... and to patrol our borders to keep in check the enormous numbers of illegal immigrants," Dr. Fourie said.

"The priority at the moment is integration," he added, referring to the integration of thousands of former guerrillas and homeland soldiers into South Africa's new model army.

Apartheid-ruled South Africa, which supported Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels against the formerly Marxist government in Luanda throughout the 1980s, withdrew its last troops in 1989 after agreements paving the way for Namibian independence and the pullout of Cuban troops from Angola.

Many veterans of South Africa's involvement in Angola, who subsequently quit the regular army, were recruited as advisers to the

government forces and have played a key role in recent successes against UNITA ahead of Sunday's accord and Tuesday's hoped-for ceasefire.

Former South African army Brigadier Bill Sass, from the Independent Institute for Defence Policy, said the United Nations needed to urgently define the role of the 8,000-strong force it reportedly wanted for Angola.

"Do they want them to reinforce the peace or to act as observers? Eight thousand men could only really act as observers and the U.N. would have to be very sure the ceasefire was going to hold before sending troops," Brig. Sass told Reuters.

"It's no good sending in lightly-armed peacekeepers when you have a semi-conventional war going on," Brig. Sass said.

"It's a very small force for a country the size of Angola, which has no infrastructure

and heavily-mined roads," he said.

Richard Cornwell, senior analyst at the Africa Institute think-tank, said before regional states considered committing troops to Angola the question of who was going to pay would have to be resolved.

"South Africa is not in a position to, and Zimbabwe certainly can't," said Mr. Cornwell. Zambia, which has suggested sending 1,000 soldiers, was even less able to afford to send them.

Mr. Cornwell said the 8,000 troops the U.N. wanted would be too few to maintain peace in a country that nearly 20 years of war has transformed into a wasteland.

"We could find we are in a Bosnia-like situation, with a force that hasn't got the strength to stop them fighting... have no doubt, we would take casualties," he said. "There are 11 million landmines there alone."

Egypt's 'ghostbusters' at war with psychiatrists

By Mona Eltahawy
Reuters

CAIRO — A war of words has broken out between Egypt's "ghostbuster" faith healers and secular psychiatrists who dismiss a national obsession with demons as a symptom of cultural backwardness.

Ever since two young sisters beat their mother to death in August in what they called an exorcism to drive out demons known as Jinn, newspapers and magazines have had a field day following up the case.

Among questions raised: Are the two women mentally unstable or possessed? Can a Jinn fall in love with woman and prevent her from marrying? Can a Jinn make a

man impotent?

The sisters are in a state mental hospital awaiting evaluation before prosecutors decide whether to press charges.

A weekly magazine suggested that one of them had become mentally unstable after her fiancée left her.

A crime tabloid ran a cover photo of the sisters looking suitably dishevelled and unstable with the teaser headline: "The Jinn issued an order... so we killed our mother."

The woman's death is not the first in the name of exorcism in Egypt, where age-old superstitions thrive.

The crime pages are the most popular sections of daily papers, feeding avid readers a staple diet of gory murder stories. They carry regular

reports of exorcisms gone wrong.

"We are face to face with daily crimes that are deep-seated. They are the fruits of evil that fall from the tree of superstition," wrote Adel Hammouda in the magazine Rose Al Yousif.

He blamed the popularity of faith healers on state neglect of mental institutions.

"Superstition mixes mental illness with possession and takes advantage of the similarity in symptoms and the lack of faith in psychiatry, with its high fees and the governmental neglect of its hospitals and the diffusion of its patients in the streets and the harsh treatment they receive," Mr. Hammouda wrote.

"There is no difference between the treatment by beating in hospitals and the treatment by beating in mosques," he added.

Muslims believe in the existence of Jinn but there is debate about the extent of their powers. Religious scholars say the most Jinn can do is suggest evil thoughts. Faith healers are convinced that full-blown bodily possession is a reality.

Other faith healers said they could help treat mental disturbances caused by Jinn while psychiatrists could take charge of those whose problems had physical origins, but did not specify how they distinguished between the two.

Psychiatrist Ahmad Al Akabawi, who took part in the forum, said faith healing was symptomatic of a cultural

crisis.

"It is part of a general identity crisis the nation is passing through... what we are witnessing is something akin to regression. We're going backwards at the close of the century because people are afraid of the future," he told Reuters.

Psychiatrist Ahmad Okasha criticised colleagues who took part in the forum for giving legitimacy to the faith healers and blamed the media for fanning the flames.

"Instead of paying attention to the problems of housing, inflation and economic development, the press is concerned with charlatanism and treatment using demons, proving the strength of backwardness in our country."

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A Save The Children Project

Marriott gets new F&B director

The Amman Marriott Hotel is pleased to announce that Khaldoun Elawi has returned as the new director of food & beverage as of Nov. 23, 1994.

Mr. Elawi was the director of catering of the hotel until his transfer to the JW Marriott Hotel in Dubai in the summer of 1993.

His experience that he has gained with that assign-

ment, as well as his local knowledge, makes him a great addition to the Amman Marriott Hotel team.

Kodak Gold 400 voted the best

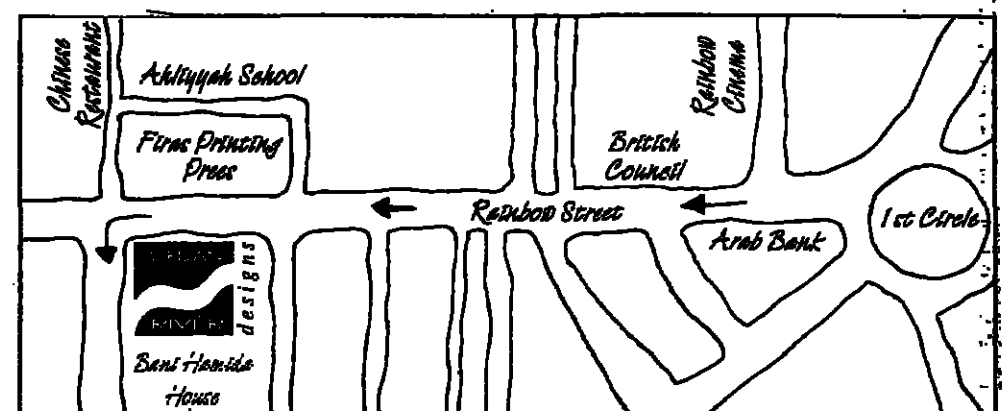
KODAK GOLD 400 speed film has been voted "European colour print film of the year 1994-1995" by the prestigious European Awards Panel (EAP).

In announcing the winner, the EAP said: "The excellent all-round characteristics of ISO 400 colour print films are perfectly demonstrated in the qualities the new Kodak Gold 400.

Its combination of speed, fine grain, superb colour reproduction and image definition make it the ideal film for a variety of lighting conditions, and especially for use in zoom compact cameras."

Peter Dinshah, Consumer Imaging Products Manager of Kodak (Near East) Inc., said: "We are honoured by this highest of accolades. We are committed to ensuring that our products represent unrivalled standards of excellence around the world and it is most gratifying to have this recognised at such a prestigious level."

An award ceremony took place at Photokina '94 on Sept. 22, in Cologne.



Saudis to turn out lights as patriotic duty

DUBAI (R) — Oil giant Saudi Arabia, strapped for cash and unable to meet a dramatic rise in power consumption, is telling its people that saving electricity is a patriotic duty.

The Gulf country, whose coffers were hard hit by the Gulf war and the world slump in oil prices, has launched a media blitz to persuade its 17 million residents to conserve power.

Industry sources said Saudi Arabia has peak load of well over 12,000 megawatts (MW) and will have to increase that by at least 10,000 MW by the end of the century unless usage is drastically reduced.

The government meanwhile has to cover most of the \$800 million annual losses of its four consolidated electricity companies and is investing billions of dollars in the most ambitious power expansion plans in the Arab World.

All this to meet consumption demand estimated to have gone up by a spectacular 18 per cent in the past year.

Belt-trimming will not be easy in a country where the state subsidises electricity, which costs a mere five fils (1.3 U.S. cents) a kilowatt.

As a consequence, people habitually leave on their lights and air conditioners even when they go out, but experts and industry sources say all this must change.

"There is no real power crisis for now, but the increase in demand is dramatic and the financial burdens pose a serious challenge for the government," one industry source said.

The electricity ministry and power companies have launched a media blitz to persuade the kingdom's 17 million residents to conserve. Even factories in industrial

areas have been asked to ration consumption, diplomats said. Supplies to some new buildings and clients have been put on hold and occasional power cuts have been reported.

Industry and Electricity Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamel voiced concern over power wastage during the summer, the high consumption season when air conditioners run full till 24 hours a day to battle temperatures sometimes topping 50°C (122°F).

"The power wastage is not only being done by the private sector, but also some government offices, and the waste has reached 30 per cent throughout the kingdom," the minister was quoted as saying by local newspaper.

A generous welfare system is at the heart of the problem in Saudi Arabia where the government provides subsidised services to maintain political and social stability, diplomats said.

Consumers pay only one third of the cost of electricity, the government subsidising the rest and providing electricity companies with free fuel.

But the government has already announced a 20 per cent cut in its overall budget, slashing spending to \$42.67 billion.

Industry sources said the government spends more than \$1 billion to cover the electricity firms' losses and pay their shareholders a seven per cent annual dividend.

The system worked smoothly during the boom years of the 1980s, but diplomats and economist doubt that the government, hard pressed for cash mainly due to lower oil prices and massive Gulf war costs, could

maintain the low rates.

"The electricity companies are not run economically and are having problems raising funds," one industry source said.

"For a government that is in need of cash this is now turning into a serious problem," an economist said.

"The kingdom's cities and industrial sector are growing and expanding at a faster rate than expected and providing power to developing areas is becoming harder by the day."

The total loss of the four electricity companies stood at \$792.4 million in the Islamic year ending June 1994. The four meanwhile have expansion projects estimated at \$5 billion.

Some contracts have been awarded, but at least two are facing financing hurdles and delays.

Bankers said there are negotiations with U.S. and British export credit agencies to play a role in financing the power projects, but there was no final agreement yet.

Industry sources and diplomats said the government will have to take steps to dampen demand by raising rates.

"Meeting demand without hiking prices and finding financing for expansion plans is becoming a big problem and a challenge for the government," one diplomat said.

"People are used to enjoying the benefits and taking that away will create social dissatisfaction."

"In a way they are victims of their own success. Demand is growing rapidly and they need to dampen demand by increasing prices, but there are no indications of moving towards that," he added.

They included Tokyo's wide-ranging support for Moscow's economic reforms, scheduling \$180 million in trade insurance debt, Japan's approval and assistance for Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation, and establishing a high-level bilateral trade committee.

Mr. Soskovets, who arrived earlier in the day leading a major economic delegation on a five-day trip, made certain his visit got off to a good start by agreeing to reopen fishery talks and telling

Russia, Japan sign four key agreements

TOKYO (R) — Japan and Russia signed four agreements Sunday that took their economic ties to a new level to keep alive hopes for an eventual resolution of a thorny territorial issue long clouding bilateral relations.

Japanese foreign ministry officials said the signing came after two rounds of talks between Russian First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono.

They included Tokyo's wide-ranging support for Moscow's economic reforms, scheduling \$180 million in trade insurance debt, Japan's approval and assistance for Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation, and establishing a high-level bilateral trade committee.

Mr. Soskovets, who arrived earlier in the day leading a major economic delegation on a five-day trip, made certain his visit got off to a good start by agreeing to reopen fishery talks and telling

Mr. Kono Russia still stood by last year's so-called Tokyo declaration as the basis for solving their territorial dispute.

The new agreement on economic reforms details closer cooperation in 13 areas including fiscal, monetary, industrial policies and transportation, communication, customs and other aspects of infrastructure.

The bilateral trade committee would be at the deputy-premier level and modelled on a similar U.S.-Russia body headed by Vice President Al Gore and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Mr. Soskovets told Mr. Kono the committee should help speed up agreements in tax and investment protection and transportation.

Mr. Kono replied that Russia must first improve the domestic economic conditions and rationalise its tax system and laws for increased foreign investment.

Analysts see Asia critical for OPEC, oil prices

DENPASAR, Indonesia (R) — Booming Asian oil demand will be critical for the future of both OPEC and world oil prices in coming decades, industry analysts have said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the group that held world markets to ransom in the 1970s and early 1980s, will once again supply over half of global oil needs by 2000, largely due to insatiable demand from developing Asian economies.

OPEC last supplied the bulk of the free world's oil around 1980, at the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war, when oil prices were well above \$40 per barrel. North Sea oil is \$17 now.

Few analysts believe OPEC would dare push

prices sharply higher again, risking another world recession, but the group's rising market share could revive its fading clout.

"OPEC will be critical for Asia and Asia will be critical for OPEC," former OPEC secretary-general Subroto said. "That doesn't mean OPEC will dictate prices again, the world oil market has grown much more efficient in the last 15 years, but it will be a major player."

Asia's bustling economies have already accounted for more than 70 per cent of world oil demand growth since 1985 and will make up 75 to 85 per cent of new demand by 2005.

"Even if demand in the rest of the world were flat for the next 10 to 20 years, Asia alone could carry OPEC,"

said Fereidun Fesharaki, head of energy studies at Hawaii's East-West Centre.

By 2005, total Asian oil consumption will grow by another nine to 10 million barrels per day (b/d), equivalent to the combined production of OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Cambridge Energy Research Associates said recently.

OPEC agreed at its year-end meeting here Tuesday to freeze its current oil output ceiling through 1995 in a bid to raise oil prices. The group hopes its new output cap and surging world demand will push prices higher where past deals have failed.

"There is a continuing level of economic growth outside of the OECD, especially in Asia, which is helping to

boost oil demand," Libyan Oil Minister Abdalla Salem El Badri said.

"Asia is expected to be the leading region in terms of the future growth of world crude oil demand," he pointed out.

With Asian oil output expected to stagnate, much of the new supplies will have to come from the oil-rich Middle East and buyers in other parts of the world will have to compete.

Mideast OPEC members, who control 75 per cent of the world's oil, are already lining up to sell oil into Asia.

Capital flows between the regions are rising — Mideast producers are pumping funds into Asian refineries and Asian nations are stepping up oil exploration in the Mideast to secure additional oil supplies.

Dr. Subroto estimates OPEC members alone will need over \$100 billion in investment by 2000 to meet expected requirements of up to 35 million b/d. OPEC pumps about 25 million b/d now.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, already has an interest in a major Korean refinery and is planning a joint venture refinery in China.

Kuwait wants 400,000 b/d of refining capacity in Asia by the year 2000 in addition to expansions in Europe and at home, a top Kuwait Petroleum Corp official said recently.

The emirate already sells about half of crude oil output and 90 per cent of its gasoline, diesel fuel and fuel oil production into Asia, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Al Medjed told Reuters in an exclusive interview.

"We are trying to find some investment (opportunities) in the oil industry in Asia, that's number one, and the second is to increase sales to these countries," he said.

When asked if higher Asian demand will boost oil prices, he said, "I hope so."

Kuwait is particularly interested in Thailand, Japan, China, India and Pakistan, the minister said.

Fuel hike send prices soaring in Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's 200 per cent increase in fuel costs has sent other prices spiralling upwards, worsening the lot of poorer people and stirring up a new bout of trade union discontent.

In the two months since the hike, food and transport prices have climbed, while union negotiations with the military government on promised measures to ease the repercussions have made no headway.

Delegates of the 41 trade unions affiliated to the Nigeria Labour Congress have accused the military rulers of dragging their feet, and let it be clearly understood they might take strike action again.

In July and August, oil workers went on strike, demanding restoration of civilian rule. The oil sector accounts for 50 per cent of

Nigeria's foreign earnings, but during those two months the state had to import 100,000 barrels of oil a day.

Fuel prices have traditionally been very low here. The last two times governments tried to raise the price slightly, in August and November last year, the measure sparked widespread social and political unrest.

Military ruler General Sani Abacha used the unrest to seize power in a coup that November.

After much hesitation, his regime put up fuel prices at the beginning of October this year, heeding the persuasion of economists and international financiers and ignoring trade union opposition and the general unpopularity of the move.

The price of petrol rose from 3.25 naira to 11 naira (16 U.S. cents) a litre (a quarter gallon). Kerosene,

largely used for lighting, went up to six naira (nine cents) from 2.75 naira, and diesel rose to nine naira (13 cents) from three naira.

Public transport fares immediately jumped more than 200 per cent. Operators are thinking about another 200 per cent increase by the end of the year, press reports said.

An average public sector employee on 4,000 naira a month needs to spend 1,600 naira a month on transport now. Government offices and foreign embassies have been hit by a rash of absenteeism.

An average Nigerian family of six people needs to spend at least 5,300 naira for a one to two months period on just the following basics: A sack each of rice and manioc, a packet of frozen fish and 10 bottles of palm oil.

The wages of a night watchman lie between 1,200

and 2,000 naira. A driver gets 3,500 to 4,000 naira, a policeman less than 2,000, and a nurse between 3,000 and 4,000 naira. Teachers at primary schools get 2,000 naira, in secondary education they get 5,000 naira.

Tough new foreign currency controls have been in force all year. The government has imposed an official rate of exchange of 22 naira to the dollar. But the central bank has been unable to meet the requirements of industry and exporters for foreign currency, so they have turned to the black market where the rate of exchange soared from 50 naira per dollar in August to 110 naira for a dollar this month.

The trade unions commented bitterly that the fuel price rises were hastening a frightening process of pauperization of the country.

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FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This day and evening has some very interesting aspects and if you are clever enough to uncover the information you are seeking you will be able to use it to great advantage in the near future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure to keep any promises you have made to others, and get your finest skills improved. Be careful in driving on the highway.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be more concerned with your finest talents and gain greater benefits, but you have to turn down invitations from others to do so.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can easily understand whatever is new, especially where philosophical thought is concerned. Plan to take a trip with your loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle those affairs which will please the one you love, such as shopping, running errands, etc. Be helpful to others you meet.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Read your newspaper well for ideas which are good and can meet with the approval of fellow associates. Avoid one who is tricky and selfish.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your assignments scheduled well so that you can get more done. Tonight do something to make you feel more dynamic and enthusiastic.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into all kinds of writings which will gain you knowledge, and look into novel ways of having entertainment with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alone for awhile at home, and figure out how to make your promises more charming and valuable to you. Keep busy at important activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are happiest when busy at progressive outlets, and this is a fine day for that. Suggest to a bigwig on how to get more complete.

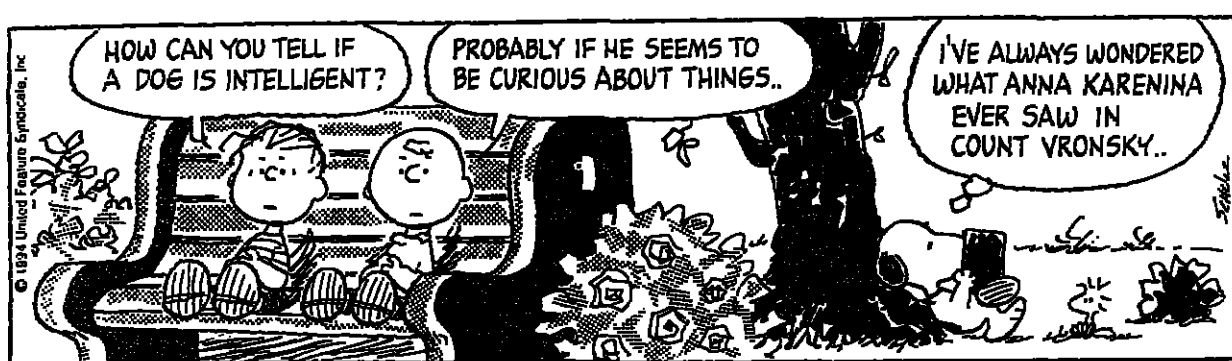
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are mentally busy deciding the right course of action to follow so that you gain your aims more easily. Follow your hunches.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Follow your intuition, and go after the personal aims which most activate you. Be happy with your mate in the evening hours.

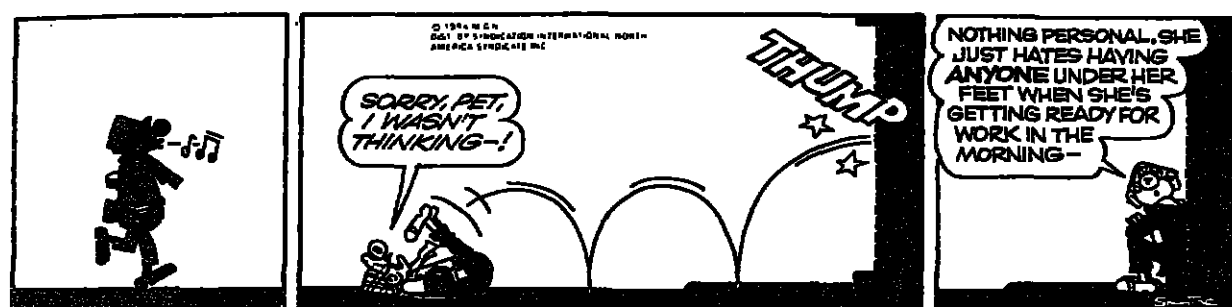
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Although usually conservative, now is a day for looking into the modern things of life. Be generous with your affection towards your mate.

Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Neel Arnold and Mike Angilton

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAMOA

OCTIX

MOHFAT

APHERIM

WHAT THE WELL-TO-DO STOCKBROKER GAVE THE MAITRE D'.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PENCE MAGIC BUSILY FIERCE
Answer: What he offered the prospective buyer — A "SAIL" PRICE

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- Boleyn
- Start of a feast
- Flute
- Person of eminence
- Snow plant
- Fad
- Apparent
- Like a circle
- Color
- Regarding
- Great Road
- Attack
- Spot steering device
- But of music
- Library sign
- Swelling
- Post's creator
- de-France
- Eyes
- Certain person
- Grown
- Honest
- Obscure element
- Squid
- The Ballad of
- Color
- Argument
- Valley
- Automation
- Building wing
- Young plant
- Editor
- Confuses
- Neglect
- Staccato
- Amight closure
- Question
- Deliberate lie
- Consumed
- Pleasant
- Hearder
- Malicious
- Takes it easy
- Animal
- Out of this world
- Partly open
- Invincible person
- Effort to realize
- Worries' gp
- Mood
- Turn to the right
- Tease
- Narrow street of
- Evening
- Outdoors
- Types
- Turn to the right
- Fishing equipment
- Mountain
- Encounter
- Burns "Scots"
- Male frog

Puzzle solved:

MUTT N' JEFF

Marvelous Crown keeps Japan Cup at home again

TOKYO (R) — Marvelous Crown, ridden by the country's top jockey Katsumi Minai, gave hosts Japan a narrow third straight win Sunday in the Japan Cup, the world's richest horse race.

The four-year-old gelding, starting at 9-1, edged out joint second favourite Paradise Creek (4-1) of the United States by a nose with another Japanese horse, Royce And Royce (16-1), one-and-a-quarter lengths back third.

U.S. favourite Sandpit (7-2), after leading from the start of the \$4 million race until the turn into the final straight, was first overtaken and then lost all chance of winning when he was squeezed out by Paradise Creek and Royce And Royce.

Race stewards fined Pat Day on Paradise Creek and Norihiro Yokoyama on Royce And Royce, for the incident. The amount was not announced.

The pair swept up on either side of the favourite and after taking the lead moved towards each other, forcing Corey Nakatani on Sandpit to check.

Sandpit finished fifth but even without the interference the horse already seemed beaten. It was the second year in a row that a four-year-old gelding had won the 12-furlong

(2.4 km) invitation race with 169 million yen (\$1.72 million) going to the winner. Legacy World took last year's race.

Marvelous Crown, starting from the number four position in the 14-strong field, trailed Sandpit most of the way before making his move in the home stretch and then getting the better of an exciting battle in the final 200 metres with Paradise Creek.

"I didn't know who had won when we crossed the line," the 41-year-old Minai said.

The Japan Cup win, his first, wrapped up a vintage year for Minai. He rode Narita Brian to Japan's triple crown title, and scored his 1,300th career victory on Saturday after making his debut 22 years ago.

Marvelous Crown's trainer Makoto Osawa said the third-straight home win proved Japanese horses could compete with the best in the world.

"I think the victory proves the level of Japanese horses is not low compared with foreign countries," he said.

Day had no excuses on Paradise Creek. "It was just who was lucky on the day," he said.

Hernando (15-2) finished fourth, but fellow French raider Apple Tree (4-1) faded badly and came in last.

FIBA expand Euro championship

MUNICH (AP) — Yugoslavia, once a major basketball power in Europe, has been given the chance to return to international competition following the partial lifting of U.N. sanctions.

FIBA, the world governing body of basketball, decided Saturday to have another qualifying tournament for next year's European championships, accommodating Yugoslavia and give five other teams a second chance.

The remaining four teams slated for the additional qualifying tournament are Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia and Turkey.

Before Yugoslavia was broken up into several republics earlier this decade, the country won Olympic, world and European titles.

The European Championship for men will be held June 21 to July 2, 1995 in Athens.



Frenchwoman Isabelle Autissier, winner of the first leg of the Class 1 section of the BOC Challenge round the world

single-handed yacht race, sets off at the start of the 2nd leg to Sydney (AFP photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Coach Maradona wins first match

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Diego Maradona won his first match as coach Saturday, when his team Deportivo Mandiyu defeated Gimnasia Jujuy 3-0 in an Argentine League game. Since Maradona took over Mandiyu in early October, the team lost three games and tied four. The side risks relegation to second division. Maradona, 34, is barred from playing by a 15-month suspension for failing a drug test during the World Cup.

No lifting of ban for Gordon

LONDON (AFP) — World athletics chiefs announced Saturday that they could not lift a four-year drugs ban on former British international discus thrower Peter Gordon because they had not received essential information from the British federation. Gordon, 43, who is suffering from lymph cancer, was banned by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) after failing to produce a full urine specimen at a meeting in London last year. The British Athletic Federation lifted the ban in November because of the unusual circumstances of the case and "with regard to Gordon's grave medical condition."

Jansher aims for 5 more years at top

DOHA (AP) — Jansher Khan, the six-time world squash champion, hammered out a chilling warning to his rivals Sunday by saying he intends to remain No. 1 player for another four or five years. The Pakistani squash king, who clinched his sixth world title earlier this year and has lost just once in 1994, is confident he can keep his top ranking and achieve his major ambition of winning 10 World Open Championships. "If I can keep up my level of fitness and do the same amount of training, then I am confident that I can remain No. 1 in the world for another four to five years," said Khan, who spoke upon arrival here to defend his Qatar International title. "But if my ranking ever slips to four, five or six, then I may retire," added Khan, who was given an emotional welcome on his arrival by hundreds of Pakistani expatriate schoolchildren in this small, oil-rich Gulf state. The Qatari International, which features 19 of the world's top 20 players, carries total prize money of \$96,000, making it the second richest on the calendar behind the World Open.

Smith retains triathlon title

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Spencer Smith of Britain took the lead on the cycle leg and held off fast-finishing Austrian Brad Beven Sunday to win the men's title at the World Triathlon Championships for the

second straight year. Smith, who won last year at Manchester, England, triumphed in a time of one hour, 51 minutes, four seconds in chilly conditions, finishing 45 seconds clear of World Cup series winner Brad Beven of Australia (1:51:49). German Ralph Eggert took third place in 1:52:41 in a sprint finish from Canadian Mark Bates.

Paris St. Germain drop a point in leadership chase

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint-Germain, who are unbeaten in the European Champions Cup league, again failed to turn on the style in the French league at the weekend when they dropped an important point in their chase of first division pacesetters Nantes. Paris St. Germain now have 35 points from 19 matches — three fewer than Nantes who have a game in hand and who play Cannes on Sunday. Lyon made no mistakes at home to Martigues with a 3-0 victory and goals from Franck Gava, Florian Maurice and Stephane Roche to move on to 33 points. And Auxerre hammered visiting Sochaux 4-0 with two goals in each half.

FC Porto stays top on goals

LISBON (AP) — FC Porto won 1-0 Saturday at home to Belenenses to stay top of the league on goal average, despite a 3-0 triumph by Lisbon rivals Sporting over Leiria. Porto's goal came from Portugal's international midfielder Carlos Securario in the 63rd minute, giving the home side another two points for a 21 point total. Sporting's 3-0 win kept the top two neck-and-neck on points and closed the goal average on the leaders. But Porto still led with 26 goals for and five against, compared with 25-8 for Sporting. Goals came from Brazilian defender Marco Aurelio in the 23rd minute, Moroccan Nourredine Naybet in the 41st and international midfielder Luis Figo in the 75th.

Zeller-Baehler wins 1st Alpine skiing victory

PARK CITY, Utah (R) — Heidi Zeller-Baehler of Switzerland gained the first victory of her 10-year World Cup career Saturday, winning the season-opening giant slalom on the strength of a stirring second run. Zeller-Baehler recorded a total two-run time of 2 minutes 22.03 seconds to overtake first-run leader Sabina Panzanini of Switzerland, who finished with 2:22.44. Vreni Schneider of Switzerland celebrated her 30th birthday with third place at 2:23.01.

Two Cuban boxers fail drug test

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two Cuban boxers, including world amateur flyweight champion Waldemar Font, have been banned from international competition for two years because they failed an anti-doping test at the Goodwill Games in Russia. The Cuban News Agency reported Saturday. The decision by the International Amateur Boxing Association costs the Cubans two of the six gold medals they won at the competition in St. Petersburg in July. Font defeated Carlos Navarro of Los Angeles to win the gold medal at 112 pounds. Mantilla defeated Choi Joon-Wook of South Korea in the 106-pound class.

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Shearer hat-trick puts Blackburn top

LONDON (AFP) — England centre-forward Alan Shearer struck a second-half hat-trick in a 4-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers to help put Blackburn on top of the Premiership and replace Manchester United whose game at Arsenal finished goalless.

Shearer, whose haul included a penalty, now has 16 goals for the season — the same as frontline partner Chris Sutton, who began the rout with a ninth-minute opener.

Shearer's third, a 35-yarder which flashed in off the underside of the bar, left even manager Kenny Dalglish overwhelmed.

"I never scored anything as good as that," said Dalglish. "It was a tremendous note on which to finish the game. It was just a terrific strike and it was nice to see Alan get a hat-trick."

Blackburn leapfrogged Manchester United, who were denied a seventh successive league win by Arsenal at Highbury, where there were seven bookings but no goals.

To complete United's misery after their midweek European Champions' League defeat in Gothenburg, striker Mark Hughes was sent off after committing his second bookable offence in the 79th minute.

Manager Alex Ferguson was critical of the referee, saying: "I would like to see the video of the incident but you've got to look at the standard of refereeing today."

"The referee booked Keith Gillespie after only 23 seconds and that set the pattern," he added.

Arsenal, still reeling from the Paul Merson drugs scandal earlier this week, avoided their third consecutive defeat and although they had the better of the exchanges in the disappointing encounter, failed to convert their superiority into goals.

There was also frustration for third-placed Newcastle, who took an 86th-minute lead through leading scorer Andy Cole — back after a five-match lay-off with a shin injury — only for Ipswich to claim a 1-1 draw with an 89th-minute equaliser by Dane Claus Thomsen.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan was unimpressed with the negative tactics of the visitors who were fortunate to leave St. James' Park with a point, saying: "That was a waste of an afternoon."

Keegan saw his side frustrated by the all-out defensive approach of the Premiership's bottom club and added: "It was like playing a non-league side in the cup. They came for a draw and they were hoofing it anywhere."

To seal a miserable day for the Tynesiders Keegan also revealed that internationals Philippe Albert and Robert Lee would be sidelined for around three weeks with groin injuries.

It was the same score at Anfield, where Neil Ruddock's 77th-minute own goal gave his former club Tottenham a point after Liverpool had gone ahead in the first half with a Robbie Fowler penalty — his 17th goal of the season.

The result gave Tottenham Gerry Francis his second draw in four days after seeing his White Hart Lane career start with a 4-3 defeat by Aston Villa last week.

Francis's work on the training ground with his side's ramshackle defence is clearly paying dividends as they confidently dealt with everything Liverpool threw at them.

There was more joy for new Everton manager Joe Royle, whose side, 2-0 victors in Monday's Merseyside derby, beat Chelsea 1-0 at Stamford Bridge with a first-half goal from Paul Rideout.

The win was only Everton's second victory away from home in 25 outings and afterwards Royle was upbeat about Everton's chances of survival, saying: "The club was one degree under when I arrived, with players almost expecting to be beaten. We have just worked on being positive and the players are responding."

A Noel Whelan strike earned Leeds a 1-0 home win over Nottingham Forest, who have now lost four of their last five League games.

Whelan headed home Brian Deane's cross on the hour to settle a scrappy encounter as Forest failed to score for the fifth consecutive game.

An injury time strike from the edge of the box by defender Daryl Sutch gave Norwich a 2-1 victory and condemned managerless Leicester to ill-deserved defeat at Carrow Road.

Bruce Grobbelaar continued his rehabilitation in the eyes of British soccer fans with a fine performance to keep another clean sheet in Southampton's goalless draw at Crystal Palace.

Grobbelaar was given a warm welcome by both sets of fans before the match, and at the final whistle, he was besieged by supporters wanting his autograph.

Wimbledon had central defender Alan Reeves sent off for slapping Paul Walsh as they went down 2-0 at Manchester City to an early goal by Gary Flitcroft and a late effort by substitute Uwe Rosler.

A header from David Bussut gave Coventry victory at West Ham, who despite enjoying greater possession were typically toothless in front of goal.

Munich move up table

BONN (R) — Lothar Matthaeus, moved back to midfield from libero, landed a late penalty to give struggling champions Bayern Munich a much-needed 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen Saturday.

Leverkusen had the better start with Ulf Kirsten putting his side ahead 1-0 after 31 minutes but the hosts began to dominate the match after Christian Nerlinger equalised two minutes before the break.

Matthaeus' penalty in the 74th minute, after he was fouled by Romanian international Ioan Lupescu, lifted Munich three places in the Bundesliga to fifth.

But an injury to Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who tore a ligament in his right knee, took some of the gloss off the win.

Club officials said the injury could keep him off the field for six months.

Kahn wrecked his knee in a collision with team mate and defender Marcus Babel while trying to block the goal by Kirsten. He was replaced by Sven Schaefer.

Officials said the 25-year-old, who transferred from Karlsruhe at the start of the season for 5.5 million marks (\$3.5 million), would be flown to the United States for an operation.

Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat landed his ninth and tenth goals of the season for Borussia Dortmund but the Bundesliga leaders only narrowly held on to the top spot with a 3-3 draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Michael Zorc scored Dortmund's first goal after ten minutes, followed eight minutes later by an equaliser from Heiko Herrlich.

Chapuisat then hit the back of the net before the break — in the 20th and 45th minutes — in a fast and rain-drenched match that saw the hosts repeatedly stalled by Dortmund defenders.

But after a string of predictable drives, Moenchengladbach clawed their way back to level terms through an 83rd minute goal by Swedish striker Martin Dahlin and another from Holger Fach in the final minute.

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Jackson scores 50 as Dallas win in OT

DENVER (R) — Jimmy Jackson capped a 50-point night by hitting a pair of foul shots with 0.5 seconds left in overtime as the Dallas Mavericks erased a 25-point deficit for a dramatic 124-123 win over the Denver Nuggets Saturday.

"It's safe to say that's my best game as a pro," Jackson said. "But it was more of a team effort. When they go up 25, we just wanted to chip away little by little. We picked up our defence and we got a great team effort."

Bryant Stith gave Denver a 123-122 lead on a 10-footer with 8.9 seconds left in OT but Jackson was fouled by Rodney Rogers, who was swarming the red-hot Jackson as part of a double-team to the left of the key.

The Nuggets had built their 25-point lead with a 127-6 run over a 7:30 span in the second quarter.

"Just a regular day at the office," said Dallas coach Dick Motta. "I told them at halftime that we were 23 points up on Portland and they came back, so I knew it could be done. We stuck with it. It was a great comeback. Jamal (Mashburn) and Jimmy (Jackson) had good games tonight."

Jackson's 50 points were a career high. Mashburn added 35.

"I'm ready to go again, let's play two," said Dallas point guard Jason Kidd, who had 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists. "That was a lot of fun. When we got down in the first half, all we wanted to do was cut away at the lead."

In Phoenix, Charles Barkley scored 23 points in his first game of the season and Danny Manning added a season-high 32 as the Suns beat the San Antonio Spurs 111-108.

"Obviously, I've got to lose 10 to 12 pounds," said Barkley. "Right now, my conditioning is not very good. I'm struggling with my shot a little bit, but I don't care as long as we win."

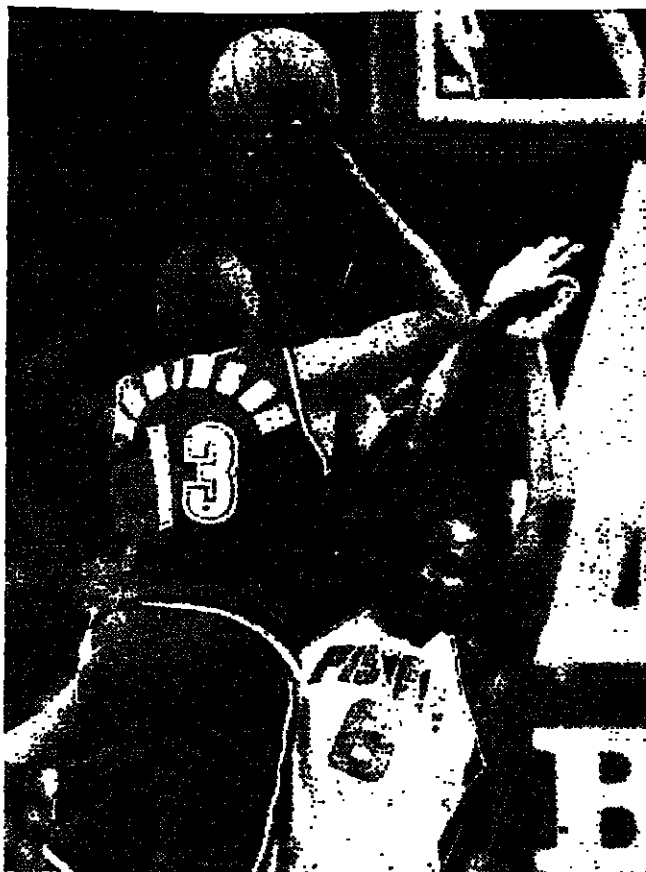
Barkley had missed the Suns' first 10 games due to an abdominal strain. The Suns put Kevin Johnson on the injured list (bruised left knee) to make room for Barkley.

David Robinson led the Spurs with 25 points.

The game also saw the first meeting between the Person brothers. Chuck scored 15 points off the bench for the Spurs, and Wesley, the Suns' first-round pick, scored just four.

In Houston, Sam Perkins scored 15 of his 22 points in the second half as the Seattle SuperSonics handed the NBA champion Rockets their third straight defeat, 98-94.

Shawn Kemp scored 22 points and Gary Payton



Glenn Robinson of the Milwaukee Bucks (left) drives for the basket past the defence of Terry Mills of the Detroit Pistons in their Nov. 8 match (AFP photo)

added 17, including a key jumper in the final minute, as the Sonics won for the fourth time in their last five games.

Vernon Maxwell scored 23 points and Hakeem Olajuwon added 22 points and 12 rebounds for Houston.

In New York, Alonzo Mourning scored seven of his 27 points in a decisive 16-5 fourth-quarter run as the Charlotte Hornets handed the Knicks their first home loss of the season, 105-95.

Mourning also grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked three shots. Charlotte's Larry Johnson scored 16 of his 23 points in the second half, when he hit 7-of-8 shots from the field.

Charlotte's Tyrone Bogues suffered a strained groin in the first half and did not return. Greg Sutton filled in at point guard.

In Cleveland, Mark Price scored a season-high 31 points as the Cavaliers cruised past the Golden State Warriors 101-87.

The jump-shooting cavs broke an NBA record by attempting just two free throws. The old record of three was set by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1980.

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Chinese women hold secret to weightlifting success

ISTANBUL (AP) — The jury is still out on how Chinese women have come to dominate the World Weightlifting Championships. But no one questions their achievements: They hold 27 of the 28 world records.

The latest record fell Saturday when China's Li Dan hoisted 107.5 kilos in the 83-kilo class for the snatch event. She broke the old mark by 2 kilos en route to winning three gold medals for her team.

Li's victories gave Chinese women a clean sweep of all 18 golds in the six weight categories in which they were entered at the championships, and lifts of more than 100 kilos have become commonplace for this powerful Chinese team.

How do they do it? Theories are as abundant as weight classes, some make sense, others are unfounded and some border on the absurd. They include long-term training, accusations of steroid use and suggestions they're in some kind of mind-over-matter trance.

Chinese women have also made great strides in middle and long distance running and swimming over the past 16 months.

Rumours of possible ster-

oid use grew after the Chinese women dominated the weightlifting events at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, last month.

They continued last week after the International Swimming Federation said Chinese swimmer Yang Aihua had tested positive for steroids less than a month after winning a gold medal at the World Swimming Championships in Rome in September.

But Randall Strossen, attending the championships as a writer for the weightlifting magazine "Milo" in California, doesn't go for the steroid explanation.

"Steroids could enhance a weightlifter's performance by 3 or 4 per cent," Strossen says. "But what we're seeing here doesn't apply. The Chinese women are lifting 15 or 20 per cent more than the silver medalists."

U.S. Weightlifting Federation president Jim Schmitz says training has made the difference.

"These girls are chosen at an early age and spend most of their adolescent lives training at the best training complexes in China for high performance," Schmitz said.

Still others believe that the naturally large pool of athle-

tic candidates in Chinese society gives them the edge.

"There are more than one million Chinese women weightlifters from which they (the Chinese team) can choose," according to Panayota Antonopoulou, the women's 76-kg champion from Greece. "That's more than the rest of the world combined."

According to International Weightlifting Federation President Gottfried Schoddl, however, economics is the key.

"The average person in China lives under more difficult conditions than most of the world, so the only way to move up in China or travel out of China is for that person to excel in sports. This is a powerful motivation," he said.

Schoddl added yet another reason: The Chinese were pioneers in women's weightlifting. "That means they had a 10-year head start on the rest of the world."

Taimazov breaks 4 records

ISTANBUL (R) — Ukrainian Timur Taimazov successfully defended his 108 kg title with four world records at the World Weightlifting Championships Saturday to continue the winning run of

ex-Soviet states in the heavy categories.

Taimazov's second and third snatches of 198.0 and 200.0 kg set world records and he soared ahead of other contenders with a record breaking 235.5 jerk to chalk up a world record total of 435.0.

The jerk counts as 235.0 for the total, which must be divisible by 2.5 kg.

His final performance was too good for 1984 Olympic gold medalist Nicu Vlad, the veteran Australian, formerly of Romania, totalled 422.5 for the overall silver.

"I wanted to start higher in both the snatch and jerk, but I saw the others' starting lifts lower than mine," Taimazov said. "A lower start was enough to win the championship."

Russia's 1991 world champion and 1992 Olympic silver medalist, Artur Akoev, was third with 420.0.

Taimazov's victory extends to three days the success of former Soviet competitors, following victories from Russians Alexei Petrov and Sergey Syrtsov in the 91 and 99 kg categories respectively.

Taimazov, who is one of the few stars to survive in the Ukraine team, is also the only one to have a private

sponsor in wrestler-turned businessman Viktor Ardishev.

Ukraine, which won the men's team event in the world titles last year in Melbourne, are considerably weaker this time due to a number of problems, including coaching.

International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) officials said the entire team may not have been here at all, had the Ukrainian Weightlifting Federation not paid out a \$50,000 fine after three Ukrainians have returned positive drug tests since July.

The money reportedly came out of the pocket of the team's sponsor and former super-heavyweight star Anatoly Pisarenko, who set up business in the United States at the end of his sporting career.

All the country's participants in the sport, from sportsmen to officials, would have been suspended for one year if the fine had not been paid after an appeal by Ukraine's Olympic committee.

All such fines may only be paid with the intervention of the country's highest sporting body. With each offence the ban period and the fine double.

Grobelaar set to answer match-fixing charges

LONDON (R) — Bruce Grobbelaar is due this week to present the English Football Association (F.A.) with his answers to charges relating to alleged match fixing.

The Southampton and former Liverpool star, whose 14-day period for replying is up on Wednesday, kept a second successive clean sheet on Saturday since the Sun newspaper made the allegations earlier this month.

The mass circulation daily claims Grobbelaar, a Zimbabwe international, threw

matches, including Liverpool's 3-0 defeat by Newcastle last season.

Grobelaar helped Saints draw 0-0 away to Crystal Palace in a Premier League match in London on Saturday following last weekend's 1-0 home win over Arsenal.

His Southampton teammates are impressed by the way Grobbelaar has coped with the allegations. But striker Iain Dowie said it was not surprising from a man who saw action against guerrillas during his national ser-

vice for Zimbabwe.

"Bruce has seen people killed when he's been fighting in the bush in Africa, so something like this isn't going to shake him," the Northern Ireland international said.

"He's been around a bit and he's handling it all pretty well... we all admire him for the way he's coping."

"As far as we're concerned, nothing has yet been proved — they are only allegations at the moment."

Grobelaar, who has denied the allegations and issued libel writs against the Sun, last week prepared his defence with his lawyers at his Liverpool home.

Grobelaar has been

charged by the F.A. with conduct which was improper or liable to bring the game into disrepute and the "acceptance of consideration with the view to influencing the result of a match."

Police have also looked into the case and interviewed the goalkeeper.

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If you try the diamond finesse, that loses and your last spade stopper is removed. Now the defenders have the upper hand. Playing the ace and queen of hearts at tricks three and four is no better. West can win and return a heart and, when in with the king of diamonds, East can cash two more hearts to scuttle the contract.
Don't give up yet. There's a line that will succeed no matter what the defenders do. Suppose at trick three you lead the queen of hearts! It makes no difference which defender wins as long as East holds no more than four spades. You can capture any return, come to hand with the ace of hearts (if necessary) and run the queen of diamonds. Even if the finesse loses you will still be able to take four diamond tricks, two hearts, two spades and the ace of clubs. (Naturally, if West wins the king of hearts and shifts to a club, you intend rising with the ace!)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamic, Jewish leaders condemn murders

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Arab-Israeli Islamic leader and a rabbi condemned for murders committed in the name of their two religions in a joint statement published Sunday. "The Jewish and Muslim religions categorically forbid murder. Those who claim religion to commit crimes are therefore violating the foundations of their faith," the statement said. It was signed by Sheikh Abdul Nimer Darwish, head of the Israeli Islamic Movement, and Rabbi Menahem Froman from the Jewish settlement of Tekoa in the occupied West Bank. The two clerics, both from moderate wings of their faiths, have worked together for several years to try to promote Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The Israeli Islamic Movement was formed in the 1980s to represent Islamists among the 800,000 Arab Israelis.

Iraqi marsh dwellers 'poisoned'

LONDON (AFP) — British officials have found evidence that Shiite Muslims in the marshland of southern Iraq are being deliberately poisoned to eliminate opposition to the regime, the Independent on Sunday reported. "A team from the Overseas Development Administration found evidence that the marsh Arabs are being poisoned by chemicals put into their water supply by the authorities," the paper said. "I discovered symptoms of chronic long-term poisoning among many Iraqi women, young men and children," the paper quoted Mukesh Kapila, the leader of the ODA mission, as saying after examining Iraqi refugees in Iran. "I also saw scars from bullets which people said had been fired by Iraqi soldiers. There is no doubt that what is happening to the marsh Arabs in Iraq amounts to genocide," Mr. Kapila said. Mr. Kapila said the flood of Iraqi refugees into south-western Iran was "fast becoming a crisis." Tehran had invited the British delegation to visit the refugees and assess their needs.

Iran writer dies under house arrest

TEHRAN (AFP) — A liberal Iranian writer died Sunday of a heart attack while under house arrest on drug and alcohol charges, the official news agency IRNA reported. Ali Akbar Sadi Sirjani's health deteriorated in "the early hours" of Sunday and he died several hours later "despite efforts" to save his life, informed sources told IRNA. The 50-year-old writer was detained in March and then put under house arrest for allegedly keeping drugs at home and for drug and alcohol addiction. An advocate of ending Iran's political isolation, Sirjani stirred controversy five years ago when he published a letter asking President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to normalise ties with the United States. Sirjani's books are banned in Iran and he had been publishing his works abroad during the two years before his arrest.

Miz'al selected beauty king in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Miz'al was selected "beauty king" for 1994 in an area west of the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, according to a report in the daily Al-Jazira. Wardi was runner up, and the third position went to Aswad. There were also beauty queens, and prizes totalled 113,000 riyals (\$30,133). In addition to a car and several sets of gold pieces, said the report. Report of beauty contests in Saudi Arabia would be bizarre enough. But perhaps even more bizarre is that the contest was for goats. The report said this was the second such annual beauty contest for "Syrian goats" at the Al Masarra farms west of Riyadh and that prizes were presented by goat owners and businessmen. Syrian goats are said to be the best breed for the animal.

Mandela starts two-day Morocco visit

RABAT (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela arrived in Morocco on Sunday for a two-day visit. Officials said Mr. Mandela was expected to meet King Hassan on Monday although the nature of his visit appeared to be private. Mr. Mandela made no statement on arrival at Rabat airport where he was greeted by Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali. Details of his schedule in Morocco were not available.

Iran vows to continue fight against Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran vowed on Sunday it would keep up its hostility towards Israel until the Jewish state disappeared from the world map. "Israel will never find legitimacy and our hostilities will continue until the Zionists disappear," Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri said. "This has always been our position and we are not ashamed of saying it." He repeated Iran's rejection of the "treacherous" Middle East peace process, telling parliament it was an "effort to legitimise" Israel in the region. "All the efforts at creating a false peace will bring nothing but civil war" in the occupied lands, he warned, adding that the Palestinians had the "right to resort to all means to free their land."

Kurdish religious leader killed in Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Gunmen have shot dead a Kurdish religious leader in Erbil in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Sunday. The agency, quoting the radio of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said Abdullah Kadir, who headed a theological college, was killed on Saturday by unidentified gunmen. Students at Kadir's college called on "the authorities of autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan to identify the guilty and punish them," IRNA added. The KDP and its principal Kurdish rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), on Thursday united under a joint leadership to prevent a recurrence of fighting between them.

Iran urges Pakistan to fight Sunni extremists

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri urged Pakistan on Sunday to fight Sunni Muslim extremists after blaming them for killing six members of a Shiite party near Islamabad. Speaking to parliament, Mr. Nateq Nuri singled out the religious extremist group, the Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), to blame for the shooting of six workers of Pakistan's main Shiite party, Tehrik Jafria Pakistan on Friday. Seventeen others were injured in the attack on a bus near the Pakistani capital. "These are foreign mercenaries bent on creating war between the Sunnis and the Shiites," the speaker said. "We urge the government of Pakistan to severely confront them and not to give them legitimacy."

League to hold Lockerbie talks in London

CAIRO (AFP) — An Arab League official is to discuss the dispute between Libya and Western countries over the Lockerbie airplane bombing in talks in London, league officials said Sunday. Secretary General Essam Abdul Meguid travelled to London from Cairo on Sunday to give a lecture on Arab-British relations. A league official said he would take the opportunity during his six-day trip to raise the issue of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed, with British officials.

Impotency drug has lasting effect

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli undergoing treatment for impotency was admitted in hospital after a serum he injected at home produced a 36-hour erection, a doctor said on Sunday. "Some patients go with an erection for as many as four hours but we have never seen an incident like this," said Dr. Eliyahu Goren of Assaf Harofeh hospital in central Israel. Doctors alleviated the condition by drawing blood from the penis and discharged the man after a three-day stay.



NO TAKEAWAY: Monkeys feast on their noodles, fried rice, salad, soup and fruits. The Chinese lunch Sunday during an annual monkey banquet is meant to enhance human monkey party at a Buddhist shrine, home to love for animals and promote tourism (AFP photo) some 500 monkeys, in Lopburi province, 150 kilometres from Bangkok. The menu features

Senator defers to Helms but defends peace process

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is settled that arch-conservative Jesse Helms will head the Senate Foreign Relations Committee but he had better watch his tongue, a fellow Republican committee member says.

"He has to realise that as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee... (his) thoughts are taken into account around the world in a way that are weighed and talked about," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum.

Ms. Kassebaum, a Republican moderate from Kansas, said she regarded as "case closed" the furor over Mr. Helms' remark last week that President Bill Clinton was unfit to be commander-in-chief of the U.S. military.

Initially, she herself "didn't feel that President Clinton was comfortable in his role as commander-in-chief... but I think, as President Clinton has gone on, he has gained a stronger relationship with the military and in foreign policy," Ms. Kassebaum said on the Cable News Network.

"And no matter whether you agree or disagree with the president on one issue or another, there is a respect for the office that I think is important."

A Democratic congressman from Mr. Helms' state, North Carolina, disputed the senator's remark last week that Mr. Clinton was so unpopular with the military he would need bodyguards to venture into the state.

"Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune in my district are very respectful of their commander-in-chief," Rep. Charlie Rose said on CNN Saturday. "They may not always agree with him, but they know he's the boss."

Israel hopes to sell satellite to Arabs

YEHUD (AFP) — Israel on Sunday launched a promotion drive to sell to Arab countries the services of its first communications satellite which will go into orbit in November 1995.

The Amos-1 satellite will cover most of the Middle East. It will be used mainly to beam television pictures, said Shlomo Tirosh, director of the Israeli company Spacecom responsible for the satellite's operation.

"The advantage of satellites is that they recognise no borders. In the case of Amos-1, it will be practically impossible to block the reception of images," Mr. Tirosh told a press conference here.

The satellite, with a range of 750,000 square kilometres, will cover "a large part of the Middle East, notably part of Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian territories, Syria and Lebanon," he said.

It will be put into orbit at an altitude of 36,000 kilometres, Mr. Tirosh told the press conference at the headquarters of Israeli Aeronautical Industries (IAI) north of Tel Aviv, which has overall charge of the project.

To receive programmes, clients will need only a small satellite dish less than a metre across.

"We are not only aiming at Israel's five million inhabitants, but the 200 to 250 million clients across the region," said Amos project director, Mr. Rosenfeld said.

Mr. Rosenfeld said contacts had already been made with Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian, especially during a recent international meeting at Dubai on the use of space.

Ms. Kassebaum said peace between Israel and Syria "could be a terrific step forward," taking issue with Mr. Helms' disparaging remarks about the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Helms earlier this month said: "This whole peace process over there is a fraud. Syria doesn't want peace. They want the Golan Heights. They want access to the pocketbooks of the American taxpayers."

While agreeing with Mr. Helms that "we can't be the policeman for the world," Ms. Kassebaum said an Israeli-Syrian settlement could be significant depending on the two countries' commitment to it.

"Frankly, I think there has been much that has happened in the Middle East that I would never have thought several years ago could have occurred," she added.

Ms. Kassebaum said she will waive her claim to chair the foreign aid subcommittee under Mr. Helms since he intends to press at the full Foreign Relations Committee level for wholesale revamping of U.S. foreign assistance.

"I'm not sure that I would have a very strong voice as the sub-committee chairman," she said, adding she hopes to head the Africa sub-committee, her post when the Republicans last controlled the Senate.

The move "doesn't diminish my interest in foreign aid reform, but I think that Senator Helms, as chairman, is going to assert some real influence in his line of thinking in that area," she said. "I think there are ways that we can reform it... it depends what Senator Helms has in mind."

Saddam in charge of Iraqi diplomacy

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein has taken personal charge of Iraq's foreign policy, according to a newspaper article on Sunday signed by his eldest son.

"The leader (Saddam) is now assuming in a direct manner the (responsibility) of the subject of Iraqi diplomacy," said Iraq's most influential newspaper, Babel, in the front-page article by President Saddam's son Uday, who owns the paper.

Babel did not say when the Iraqi president started running foreign policy, but said "changes at the U.N. Security Council" on how to deal with Iraq sanctions were due to the way President Saddam was steering diplomacy. The sanctions were imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which was repulsed in 1991 by a U.S.-led force.

The paper repeatedly criticised Iraq's foreign policy in the past. It said it did not help Iraq to gain anything from the United Nations in return for the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq met a key condition in Gulf war ceasefire terms on October 10 with a decree recognising Kuwait within its U.N.-demarcated borders, leading to expectations of an imminent easing of sanctions. Iraqi diplomacy was previously in the hands of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

State-run newspapers reported on Sunday that Mr. Aziz had briefed President Saddam and members of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) on the outcome of his latest mission to the U.N. in New York to lobby for an easing or lifting of the embargo.

The Security Council has ruled out any easing until Baghdad complies with all 1991 Gulf war-related resolutions.

Babel said President Saddam succeeded in causing "divisions in the Security Council" and bringing about "a change in the language of the (council's) latest statement."

The Security Council welcomed Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as an important step, but stopped short of giving a pledge or timetable on when sanctions will be eased.

Babel said the president "opened direct dialogue with the Russians via a hot line between Baghdad and Moscow" and was the man who "led the political battle with the West" by massing troops close to the Kuwaiti border in October "to propel Iraq's case into international limelight."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, in a surprise visit to Baghdad last month, succeeded in persuading Iraqi leaders to formally recognise Kuwait within the new U.N.-drawn borders in return for a Russian pledge to help Iraq's case at the Security Council.

The RCC, in a statement carried by the official press, said recent steps taken by Iraq "were bound to open the path for the lifting of the unfair embargo on Iraq." It did not elaborate.

The statement lashed out at what it called U.S. insistence on keeping the sanctions intact.

Iraq on Sunday also rejected accusations in a U.N. report of serious human rights abuses and launched a stinging attack on its author.

Algeria situation is under control — Ghali

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Algerian government has the situation "well in hand" despite an Islamic militant insurgency and is capable of finding a solution to its "internal problems," visiting U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali told Algerian radio Sunday.

He said upcoming elections would calm the tension and let democracy take root, to "allow Algeria, which has always played an extremely important role in the context of the African continent and the planet... to regain this role in the interest of the Maghreb (region), of Africa and the international community."

Dr. Ghali arrived in Algeria on Friday for a tour of the region which is to take him to Morocco and the disputed former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, where he hopes to relaunch the peace process.

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual said last month that presidential elections would take place before the end of next year, a year before the scheduled end of the current period of transition.

Mr. Zeroual also announced the apparent failure of moves to obtain a working dialogue between the government and the Islamist opposition, which has been fighting a guerrilla war against the authorities since the annulment of elections the Muslims were poised to win three years ago.

The president accused the two leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, under house arrest since Sept. 13, of "supporting terrorism," and reaffirmed his intention to clamp down on armed groups to "eradicate terrorism."

Meanwhile, the correspondent of the western Algerian daily Horizons, Kaddour Boushelham, abducted by armed assailants on Oct. 29, was still missing Sunday, the paper said, adding nobody had claimed responsibility for his kidnapping.

Another correspondent, Mohammed Hassaine, of the now defunct Alger Republicain daily, was also still missing nine months after he was abducted at Larbathe south of Algiers.

In all, 21 journalists have been assassinated in the unrest in Algeria since May last year.

Union calls off strike
The 110,000 strong Algerian

oil and gas workers union has called off a three-day strike, scheduled to start on Sunday, Algerian state radio and newspapers said.

"The strike was suspended," Badreddine Mohammad Lakhdar, secretary general of the Federation of Petroleum, Gas and Chemical Workers, told Algerian state radio on Saturday night. Algerian newspapers on Sunday headlined a last-minute accord between the government and the oil workers union.

The union was protesting against the restructuring of the national oil company Sonatrach.

"I ask the workers of all the organisations affiliated to our federation to go to their jobs tomorrow (Sunday) because we have at least (reached agreement) with regard to the chemicals grouping and the grouping of all the carbohydrates organisations to be under Sonatrach, and this is what our workers have been aspiring to achieve all along," the secretary general was quoted as saying.

Mr. Badreddine said his union called off the strike after they reached agreement in talks with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi that the companies will be regrouped around Sonatrach.

He did not say when and how these companies will be restructured.

The union lost much of negotiating power when Sonatrach's union, affiliated to the federation, called last Tuesday for its thousands of workers to ignore the strike call.

Sonatrach handles the production, transport and export of Algeria's oil and gas.

Security forces also said Saturday they found the buried body of a woman kidnapped three weeks ago along with her husband, son and two daughters. The 15- and 21-year-old girls were found three days after the Nov. 4 kidnapping, their throats slashed for refusing a "marriage of convenience," a temporary marriage, with Islamic guerrillas, security forces said at the time.

The media widely used the gruesome photos of the dead girls as an example of the extremists' "barbarity." The mother, identified as Khadija Boughedou, was found buried in the Blida region south of Algiers where the family lived. The husband and son were freed by elite troops who killed two of the kidnappers.

British queen dragged into row over Europe

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth, seen by her subjects as above party political squabbling, could face one of the trickiest decisions of her 41-year reign if the government loses a key vote on European Union (EU) financing on Monday.

Prime Minister John Major has said he will step down and call a general election if rebels within the ruling Conservative Party combine with opposition legislators to defeat a bill to increase Britain's contributions to the EU.

Although Mr. Major has only a 14-seat majority in parliament, Conservative rebels have acknowledged, however, that they do not expect the government to lose Monday's vote.

Mr. Major refused to tell parliament last week whether he had discussed his challenge to his party rebels with the queen, Britain's head of state, from whom he would have to request a dissolution of parliament.

With the Conservatives over 30 points behind the opposition Labour Party in the polls, members of the ruling party would be desperate to avoid an immediate general election, and could put pressure on Buckingham Palace for another way out of the crisis.

Analysts agree the queen has the right to refuse to grant a general election, instead asking another leading member of the Conservative Party whether he or she could form a government in Mr. Major's place.

But they said this would be a highly political move, infuriating a Labour Party anxious to seize a golden opportunity to return to power after 15 years in opposition.

Analysts differ on how the queen might react.

Lord Robert Blake, an acknowledged constitutional expert, wrote last week: "It is surely inconceivable that the sovereign would refuse a dis-

solution to a prime minister, backed by his cabinet colleagues, who requested it after defeat on an issue of confidence in a parliament more than 2½ years old."

But Daily Telegraph columnist Simon Heffer said: "The queen's constitutional role is to see that her government is carried on, not to indulge the whims of every touchy prime minister who comes complaining to her."

Britain has no written constitution, so analysts have to resort to scuffling around in the history books for precedents on what previous monarchs have done in similar circumstances.

Some cited an example in 1905, when King Edward VII refused Conservative Prime Minister Arthur Balfour a dissolution and asked Liberal leader Henry Campbell-Bannerman to form a government.

But that was a time when the royal family commanded almost universal respect from the British people.

Now, after a series of royal scandals — the latest over heir to the throne Prince Charles' failed marriage to estranged wife Princess Diana — the future of the monarchy is far less secure.

"At times like this the monarch faces an awesome task. The queen will know that the wrong decision will wreck the monarchy for good," columnist Peter Osborne wrote in London's Evening Standard.

Mr. Heffer, a right-wing Conservative, accuses Mr. Major of playing dangerous games with the constitution. He said he was insolent if he had not discussed the possible dissolution with the queen.

And he added: "If Mr. Major has secured the queen's permission to bully parliament, then the queen has committed the gravest constitutional error of her reign."

COLUMN

Monaco's Rainier recovering well after surgery

MONTE CARLO (R) — Prince Rainier of Monaco was recovering well Sunday following heart bypass surgery, his palace announced. A statement said the 71-year-old prince, who underwent the operation Friday at Monaco's Centre for Heart and Thoracic Medicine, had been able to receive his family, to eat and to read newspapers. "His morale is excellent," the statement added. A bypass operation is usually carried out when the small blood vessels serving the heart muscle become blocked due to age and disease and are surgically replaced healthy vessels grafted from another part of the body. Prince Rainier was married to Hollywood actress Grace Kelly for 30 years until her death in 1982.

Spanish royals gather for infanta's engagement

MADRID (R) — The Spanish royal family gathered amidst flowers and photographers at the Zarzuela Palace for Jaime de Marichalar's formal petition for the hand of the Infanta Elena in marriage. The event drew media hordes, whipped into a frenzy by last Wednesday's announcement of plans for the first royal wedding in Spain in nearly a century. The 30-year-old princess, eldest child of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia and second in line to the Spanish throne behind her brother Prince Felipe, was all smiles and giggles as she said the marriage ceremony would take place next March. Mr. De Marichalar gave his fiancée a tiara and a white gold ring with diamonds that belonged to his mother, while the infanta gave him a watch. The 31-year-old economist happily held up his wrist and said the gift was "magnificent." The couple smiled as they walked around the palace gardens for photographs before the private ceremony, which was restricted to members of the two families.

Princess Anne ends South African visit

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — Princess Anne wrapped up a five-day visit to South Africa Saturday with a one-and-a-half hours tour of the harbour of this Indian Ocean port city. The trip was the only light relief in a hectic trip which has also taken her to Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. Earlier Saturday, she visited South Africa's premier racehorse training centre, at Shongweni near here, before paying a call on the South African Jockey's Academy, where she posed for photographs with a number of racehorses. The princess also managed to lay a wreath at Commonwealth war graves in Stella Wood Cemetery here, open a creche in Inanda black township and pay a visit to the St John Ambulance in Durban as commander-in-chief of the organisation, before departing for a three-day visit to Mozambique.

Infant found alive amid wave of abandoned babies

SANTIAGO (AFP) — An abandoned baby was found alive in Valparaiso, authorities said Saturday amid concern about the growing number of infant bodies discovered in Santiago and other cities in Chile. Police, responding to an anonymous phone tip, rescued the baby in the seaside resort about 100 kilometres west of Santiago. A series of dead baby discoveries began Nov. 13 with an abandoned baby's body found in the Santiago General Cemetery. That same day a 17-year-old woman was arrested after the body of her newborn daughter was found in a trash bin. Two days later another dead abandoned infant was discovered in the Santiago cemetery. The latest grisly discovery came last Thursday, when two dead twin girls in a garbage dump in Rancagua, about 80 kilometres south of the capital.